

# Carolina country



## Good Work

INSIDE:

Early College  
in Greene County

Cooperatives worldwide

A model man in Belhaven



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Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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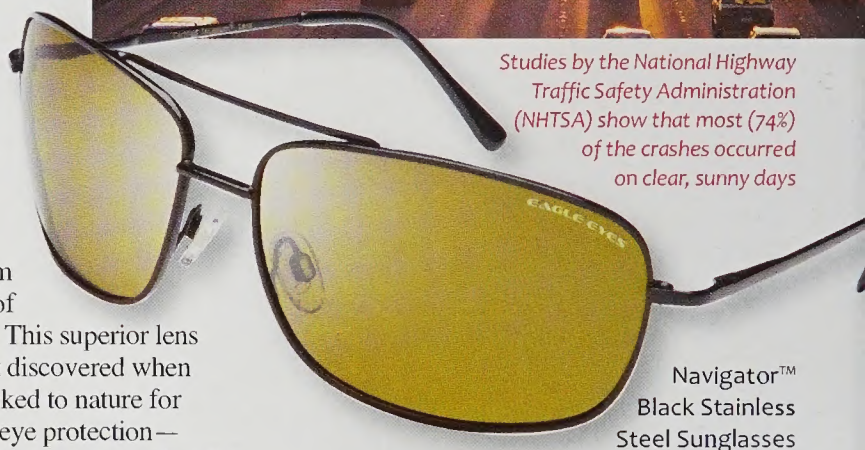
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September 2015

Volume 47, No. 9

## FEATURES

### 6 *Yes'm, It's Been Quite a Year*

Jacob Brooks sends news from Nashville.

### 11 *Pole Attachments*

State Sen. Harry Brown and Rep. Paul "Skip" Stam took the lead in clarifying state law on attaching third party equipment to co-op utility poles.

### 12 *A Long Way From the Backyard Chain*

How Everest, a Therapy Dog, came to help kids read.

### 14 *Greene Early College*

Here's what happens when students and teachers are motivated to excel. Plus: Aiven gets an eye.

### 16 *Cooperatives Without Borders*

U.S. electric cooperatives share their expertise with world communities that need it most.

### 18 *Model Man*

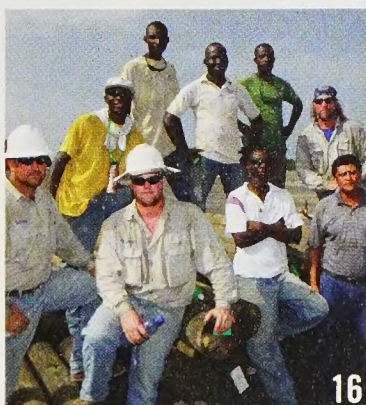
Belhaven's Jimmy Courson and his model ships show real strength and determination.

### 26 *Landing a Hot Air Balloon*

And other things you remember.

#### ON THE COVER

Some Greene Early College students in the Emily Garriss classroom where they take Honors English. In the foreground is Raeanne Dixon, then clockwise: DJ. Cobb, Ms. Garriss, Aiven Aguilar, Casey DeLeon, Karen Perez and Marisol Caballero. Learn about them on pages 14-15. (Randy Berger Photography)



16



18



42

## FAVORITES

- 4 **Viewpoint**  
Cutting cords.
- 8 **More Power to You**  
Big Wind comes to northeastern North Carolina.
- 20 **Where Is This?**  
Somewhere in Carolina Country.
- 25 **Photo of the Month**  
"Cowboys."
- 28 **Carolina Country Store**  
Worms.
- 30 **Joyner's Corner**  
Go from Ashe to Anson.
- 31 **Marketplace**  
A showcase of goods and services.
- 32 **Carolina Compass**  
Early NASCAR at the Historic Orange Speedway.
- 38 **Energy Cents**  
Avoid energy scams.
- 40 **On the House**  
Electricity and home electronics.
- 41 **Classified Ads**
- 42 **Carolina Kitchen**  
Ramen Coleslaw, Quick Monkey Bread Rolls, Slow Cooker Cola Barbecue Pork, Banana Pudding Pie.



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North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to nearly 900,000 homes and businesses. The 26 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

#### Why Do We Send You Carolina Country Magazine?

Your cooperative sends you Carolina Country as a convenient, economical way to share with its members information about services, director elections, meetings and management decisions. The magazine also carries legal notices that otherwise would be published in other media at greater cost.

Your co-op's board of directors authorizes a subscription to Carolina Country on behalf of the membership at a cost of less than \$5 per year.

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#### HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

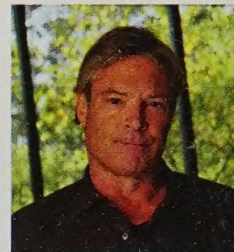
Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

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Soy ink is naturally low in VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and its usage can reduce emissions causing air pollution.

# Cutting cords



By Michael E.C. Gery

You may recently have come across the term "cord cutting." I've seen it in discussions about moving TV and Internet service into more of a free-range market. People are weary of paying maybe \$100 a month for cable or satellite TV service that delivers dozens of useless and boring channels that no one in the household watches. Other people are weary of paying for Internet service that delivers as much of the "please wait" swirling ring or somersaulting hourglass as it delivers information and images. So there's a movement toward cutting the cable and paying for some service or equipment that allows you to choose only the TV and Internet you want, when you want it.

"Cord cutting" can also refer to cutting the telephone line into your place and relying only on a cell phone that you can carry anywhere. And, I have cut and stacked many cords of firewood that heated the house all winter.

I also saw the term brandished on a power-charging station at an airport. But when I glanced at the cord cutting going on there I noticed that people had little cords connected to electric outlets. Maybe the idea is to power up, then cut the cord and move on.

Cutting the cord brings to mind detaching the umbilical cord, no longer useful, and allowing a newborn to function on its own. When it comes to TV, Internet and telephone, however, the electronic device at some point needs to be re-attached to a source of electric power, usually by means of a cord.

Now comes emerging technology that works on magnetic resonance whereby you place your phone or laptop on a table to be recharged wirelessly, like receiving a WiFi Internet signal without using a wire. But that power table, like your wireless modem, needs to get its electricity from somewhere, such as a cord coming from a wall outlet connected to electric wiring fed by the circuitry energized by the power line maintained outside by your electric cooperative.

The technology firm Intel, maker of semiconductor chips, reported recently on a survey that examined "pain points or frustrations people have when using their personal computing devices." Respondents said "they have to carry so many different wires, cords and plugs when traveling or going from place to place because every device has its own cord, plus USB and even display cables. They don't want to carry these around, and many want these wires out of their sight." Of those surveyed, 76 percent said they were frustrated by how their devices won't operate without using a specific wire for each device.

Wouldn't it be nice if all our appliances and electronics worked like those little handheld calculators with their solar energy collectors? Wouldn't it be nice if we could carry a soldering gun outside, flip its switch, and electric current in the thin air would find it and run it? Or if our cars could run on water alone?

I once met a guy named Baldwin towing a small travel trailer from place to place. He had bolted onto the trailer a little wind turbine to generate power for a compressor that ran his refrigerator. When he was preparing to give a public talk later, he went into the house to run a photocopier. ☹

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## Keeping food fresh

In response to your August 2015 magazine story on throwing food away, my best remedy for keeping food fresh is using a vacuum-sealed baggie. When you purchase these bags it comes with a pump to pump all the air out of the bag. I have been able to keep iceberg lettuce fresh and usable for three weeks.

*Cab Hargrave, Canton, Haywood EMC*

## Frog in hiding

On the July magazine cover picture of Ethan and Gabe playing checkers on their makeshift table, I wonder how many noticed the little frog in the table sitting idly by. My daughter said, "Maybe the frog is waiting to take on the winner." The picture reminded me of my brother and me playing together.

*Claude Nicholson, Brevard, Haywood EMC*



## Frog on deck

I walked out the front door and found this large bull frog on the porch. So I put him in my boat to get this shot.

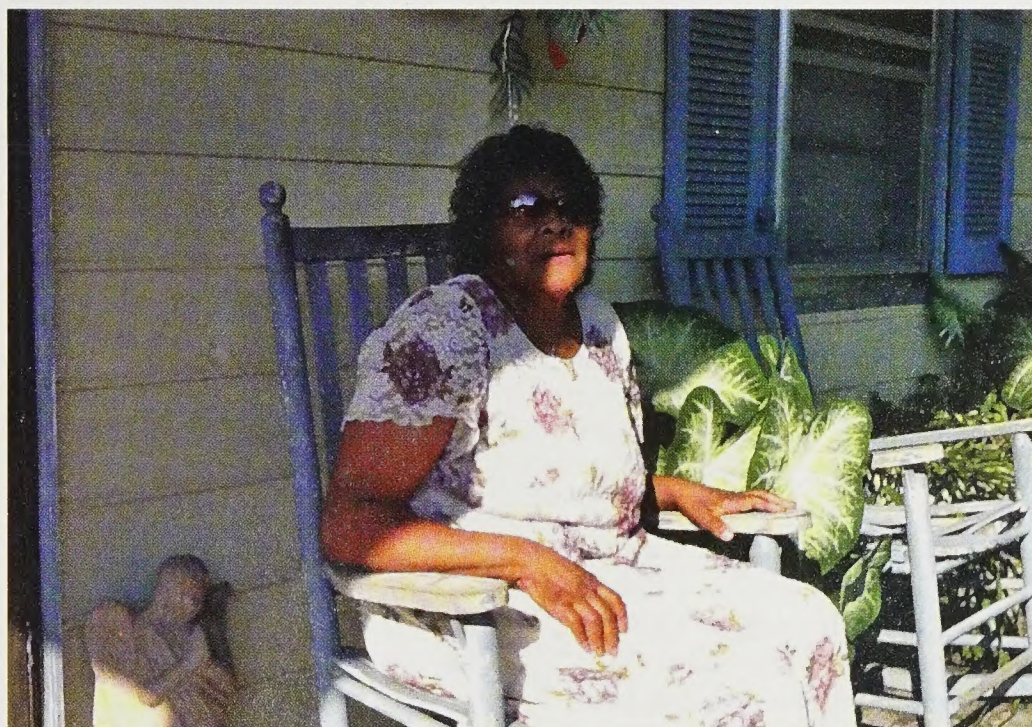
*Frank Ellison, Ocean Isle, Brunswick EMC*  
[dreamstime.com/frankitb\\_portfolio\\_pg1](http://dreamstime.com/frankitb_portfolio_pg1)



## East Bend sunflowers

This is our beautiful Sunflower Garden on our small farm.

*Sheila Adams and Lee Gordon, East Bend, Surry-Yadkin EMC*



## Rosa's babies

I wanted to share my friend Rosa Lesane's beautiful caladiums. She calls them her babies and plays Christian music for them every day.

Rosa is a 30-year member of Four County Electric in Elizabethtown. She looks forward to receiving her Carolina Country magazine each month. As a matter of fact, her new one came today, and I read it to her. I read to her because Rosa is totally blind and has been for 13 years.

She told me and a friend last weekend that most people would feel sorry for themselves and give up. Not Rosa. She said these "babies," the caladiums, give her something to do, and she absolutely loves it.

She also does all of her own cooking, cleaning and laundry. The only thing she refuses to do is learn to use a phone. She says she didn't like a phone when she had her sight and still doesn't like it.

*Leslie Sinclair, Dublin, Four County EMC*



## JACOB'S LOG:

# Yes'm, it's been quite a year

By Jacob Brooks

It's a tossup. Which moment was more nerve-wrecking for me this past year: 1) Standing in front of a classroom full of eager-to-learn faces for the very first time, or 2) Bending down on one knee to propose marriage to Katie. Yes'm, it's been quite a year.

I moved to Nashville, Tenn., in June 2015 to join Teach for America. This program hires individuals to teach two years in high-need schools in low-income areas, both rural and urban. Through serendipitous circumstances, I was placed in Nashville as a "special education" teacher and am working at STEM Preparatory Academy, which is a charter school in southeast Nashville. My initial reaction could be defined as an excited panic with a twist of anxiety—much like I feel anytime the Braves start the playoffs—because I know it will come to a devastating end. But I am proud to say that I survived my first year of teaching.

My first month of teaching? Picture a confused Australian Shepherd trying to herd cattle. To say I was in survival mode is an understatement.

Teaching is a humbling profession. There is nothing like teaching a lesson on slope-intercept form on a Tuesday while accidentally using your teacher notes from the Monday lesson. Then your students correct you while your principal is observing. Why I didn't throw those Monday notes away, I'll never know. Without a doubt, I was a train wreck in progress.

But over time I started to find my footing and was able to ground myself in what really mattered: my students. Before I knew it, I was actually getting through an entire lesson in a 50-minute block. Small victories!

The highlight of my first year was taking my 7th graders to Appalachian State University and Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. It was an incredible experience. The students



My students when we visited the Appalachian State campus.

I worked with every day—teaching place-value skills, teaching verbs and nouns—were playing soccer inside Kidd Brewer Stadium.

### Katie

I do miss my family and the Blue Ridge Mountains, but life in Nashville has its perks. Katie and I are finally in the same city!

We met through the electric cooperatives' 2010 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. She was serving as Alabama's Youth Leadership Council representative while I was serving as North Carolina's. We stayed friends for several years, in and out of touch with each other. We started a long-distance relationship halfway through college.

She graduated from Auburn in 2014 and is working as a nurse. Being in Nashville together has been an opportunity for us to grow separately as individuals and grow together as dear friends. Plus, she is a great-looking date and doesn't mind being dragged to Vince Gill concerts. It was from there that I decided to propose in June.



Katie and me.

Yes'm, the past year has been an adventure. I have a classroom, and I'm getting married. Life is good. Thanks for caring, North Carolina. 🇺🇸

Jacob Brooks grew up in Alleghany County, represented Blue Ridge Electric on the 2010 Youth Tour to Washington, wrote his "Log" for Carolina Country, and graduated from Appalachian State University in 2014.





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## African Gem Cutter Makes \$2,689,000 Mistake... Will You?

This story breaks my heart every time. Allegedly, just two years after the discovery of tanzanite in 1967, a Maasai tribesman knocked on the door of a gem cutter's office in Nairobi. The Maasai had brought along an enormous chunk of tanzanite and he was looking to sell. His asking price? Fifty dollars. But the gem cutter was suspicious and assumed that a stone so large could only be glass. The cutter told the tribesman, no thanks, and sent him on his way. Huge mistake. It turns out that the gem was genuine and would have easily dwarfed the world's largest cut tanzanite at the time. Based on common pricing, that "chunk" could have been worth close to \$3,000,000!

The tanzanite gem cutter missed his chance to hit the jeweler's jackpot...and make history. Would you have made the same mistake then? Will you make it today?

In the decades since its discovery, tanzanite has become one of the world's most coveted gemstones. Found in only one remote place on Earth (in Tanzania's Merelani Hills, in

the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro), the precious purple stone is 1,000 times rarer than diamonds. Luxury retailers have been quick to sound the alarm, warning that supplies of tanzanite will not last forever. And in this case, they're right. Once the last purple gem is pulled from the Earth, that's it. No more tanzanite. Most believe that we only have a few years of supply left, which is why it's so amazing for us to offer this incredible price break. Some retailers along Fifth Avenue are more than happy to charge you outrageous prices for

this rarity. Not Stauer. Staying true to our contrarian nature, we've decided to **lower the price of one of the world's rarest and most popular gemstones.** Our 2-total carat Sunburst Tanzanite Ring features marquise-cut gemstones set dramatically in gorgeous sterling silver. Each facet sparkles with the distinct violet-blue hue of the precious stones.

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## Amazon plans to buy power from a big wind energy operation in northeastern North Carolina

**B**y early 2017, the online retail and tech giant Amazon expects to buy electricity made at a giant wind energy installation on 22,000 acres of farmland in a remote region of northeastern North Carolina between Elizabeth City and Hertford. Before then, the region known as The Desert will begin sprouting 104 wind turbines, 500 feet high with giant blades. The blades will be visible from the U.S. 17 bypass running through Perquimans and Pasquotank counties.

The \$400 million project is designed to generate up to 208 megawatts, enough to power 61,000 homes annually. Builder Iberdola Renewables says its Desert Wind project will require 250 people to build and 10 people to operate. Part of the deal will give Iberdola a 94 percent tax rebate in the first year and a projected 25 percent discount after 15 years.

Among other tax benefits for the project is the state's Renewable Energy Tax Credit, set to expire at the end of 2015. There is debate in the General Assembly about extending it.

The local economy is destined to benefit, too. The farmland owners, 62 in all, will get about \$6,000 a year for each turbine on their land, and the payment may rise in future years. Desert Wind will likely be the largest taxpayer in both counties, paying about \$5,000 per year per tower for the 54 in Perquimans and 50 in Pasquotank.

Gov. Pat McCrory attended groundbreaking ceremonies in July and mentioned the prospect of counting the wind energy installation toward the newly announced Environmental Protection Agency's federal requirement for U.S. states to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions from energy production.

"The Amazon wind farm is a significant step toward diversifying North Carolina's energy resources," McCrory

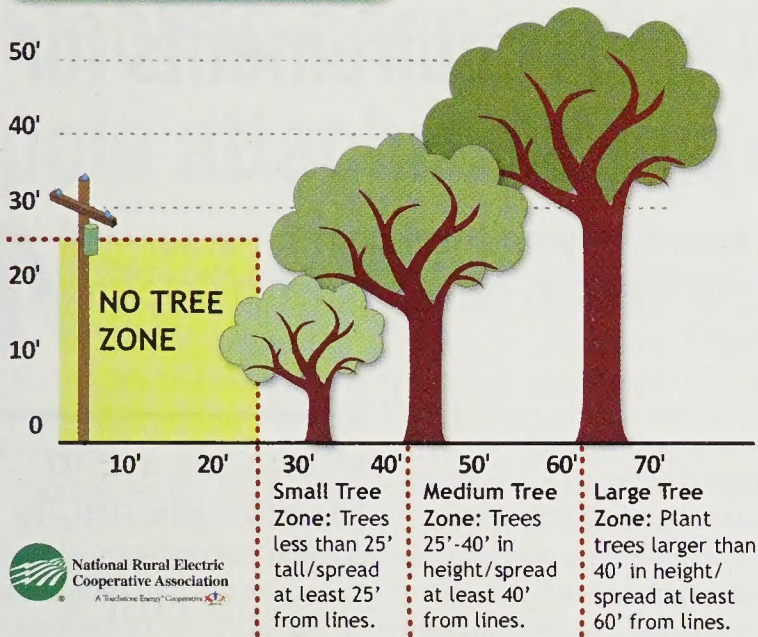
said in July. "Bringing onshore wind production to North Carolina is part of my 'all of the above' energy strategy. By diversifying our energy resources, we can provide affordable, reliable and secure sources of energy that are environmentally clean and safe."

While North Carolina already is seen as a leader nationally in developing utility-scale solar energy, wind power developers also have prospected here. Besides Amazon, according to the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, Apple, Google and Facebook are looking to buy from the state's renewable energy projects.

Iberdola said work could begin on the site this summer. The turbines will come in 2016. Meantime, Iberdola and the U.S. Department of Defense are studying the effects the turbines may have on Navy operations in the region. The firm also has worked with agencies concerned about effects on birds, bats and the local environment.



## Tree Planting Guide



## Right-of-way clearing is critical for providing reliable electric power

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 20 feet of overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

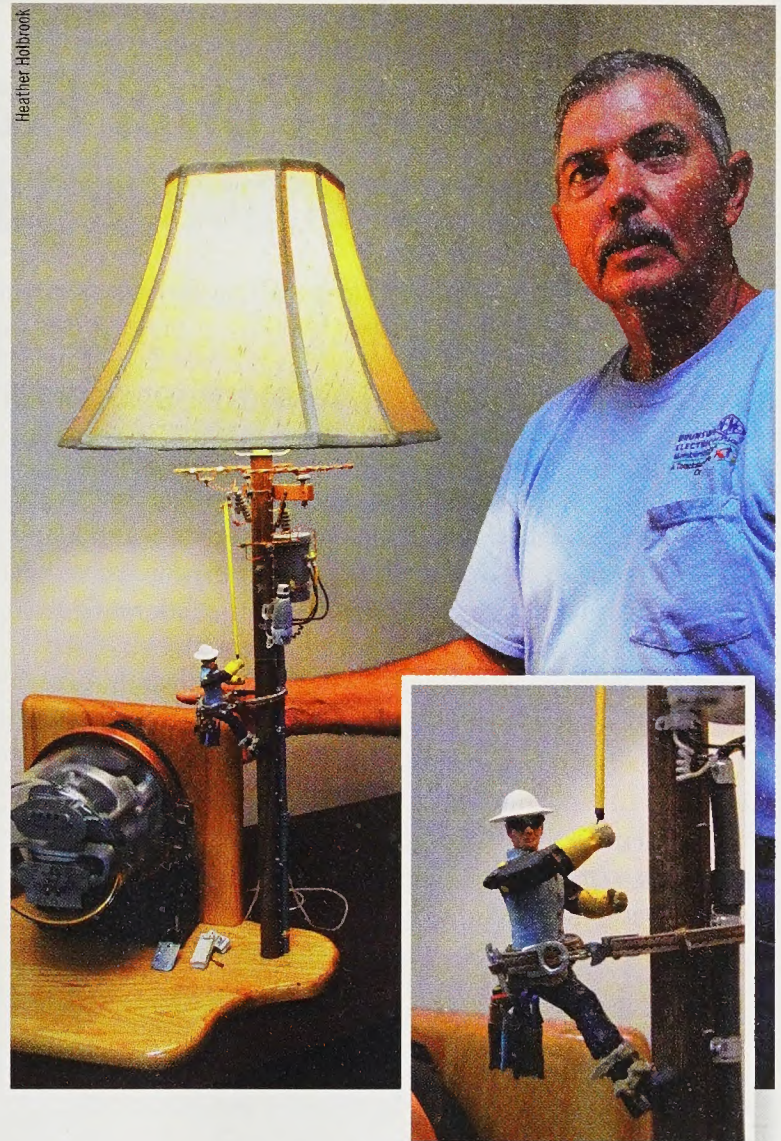
Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping your lights on. An average of 15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

Contact your cooperative if you decide to trim or remove trees near any power service or line. And never trim a tree in the right-of-way zone on your own.

See a video on right-of-way maintenance at [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)



Union Power Cooperative's system arborist Wil Ortiz supervised kids planting oak trees to replace trees felled during a storm in the Indian Trail area of Union County. See a video of electric cooperatives caring for their communities: [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)



## A little lineman lights a lamp

First-class lineman Ricky Sellers of Brunswick EMC spent four months making a table lamp with a scale-model lineman working it. The lamp is connected to an antique meter measuring its power draw.

He was not familiar with either making models or using the required materials: recycled wood, copper, plastic, clay, paint, brass, aluminum, steel, small nails, rubber, cork, cloth, string, leather and glass.

"I had no clue what I was getting myself into," Sellers said. "The lineman itself took two months to make and had to be done under a magnified work light. I once dropped the hot line clamp on my workshop floor, and it took two hours to find because of the tiny size of it."

The little lineman wears hooks for climbing the little pole and wields a little hot stick for working on live lines. "My wife and kids used to pick at me about my little lineman," Sellers said. "They nicknamed him Dolly. A couple of times they went so far as to dress him up in different Barbie doll dresses. Not funny to an old lineman like myself."

A 29-year member of the Brunswick EMC staff, Sellers is the lead quality control technician for the cooperative's Whiteville office. He said he is unlikely to make another one of these lamps. "Because of time it takes to fabricate every piece, it would be hard to find the time. If I were to, it just wouldn't be one of a kind."



# Federal Clean Power Plan sets requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have been studying the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan released in early August to determine its impact on cooperative member-consumers.

**T**he EPA on August 3 released the final version of its plan and rules, which aim to reduce carbon emissions from power production nationwide. In its role of issuing regulations under the federal Clean Air Act, EPA gives each state a specific benchmark and directs the states to develop plans to reduce emissions to meet stated goals.

"This plan may bring significant changes to the industry," said Joe Brannan, chief executive officer of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, the power supplier for most of the state's electric cooperatives. "We are reviewing the regulation to determine how it will impact cooperative members in North Carolina. As not-for-profit utilities, our goals are to provide electricity at the lowest possible cost and to keep our members' interests first."

North Carolina's electric cooperatives have a diverse portfolio of power resources. More than half of the cooperatives' power comes from emissions-free nuclear energy, with the

remainder coming from natural gas, market purchases and renewables. This investment in a diverse portfolio will help lessen the potential for extreme rate increases to electric cooperative members and ensure the cooperatives can continue to provide affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible power.


The EPA asks states to submit initial plans or request an extension by September 2016, with final plans due in September 2018. States are expected to begin complying with emissions reduction plans by January 2022, and to meet their goals by January 2030. EPA says if all states comply by 2030 with the emissions reduction goals set in the plan, the nation's carbon emissions will be reduced 32 percent compared to 2005 levels.

Detailed EPA analysis of each state's emissions production produced a formula for determining state-by-state reduction goals. Citing a 2012 baseline emissions rate for each state, the plan tasks North Carolina with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent by the year 2030. Neighboring states are given similar targets: Georgia with 34 percent, South Carolina with 35 percent, Tennessee with 39 percent and Virginia with 32 percent.

The targets are for compliance in each state, not for specific utilities. In North Carolina, the General Assembly and the McCrory Administration will determine how the state will respond.

The EPA plan says states can employ a variety of measures to reach the emission reduction goal, including stepped up efficiency at coal-fired power generating plants, and reducing use of coal while increasing use of nuclear and natural gas fuels to generate electricity. Gains in end-user energy efficiency and more electricity generation from renewable energy sources may also be applied.

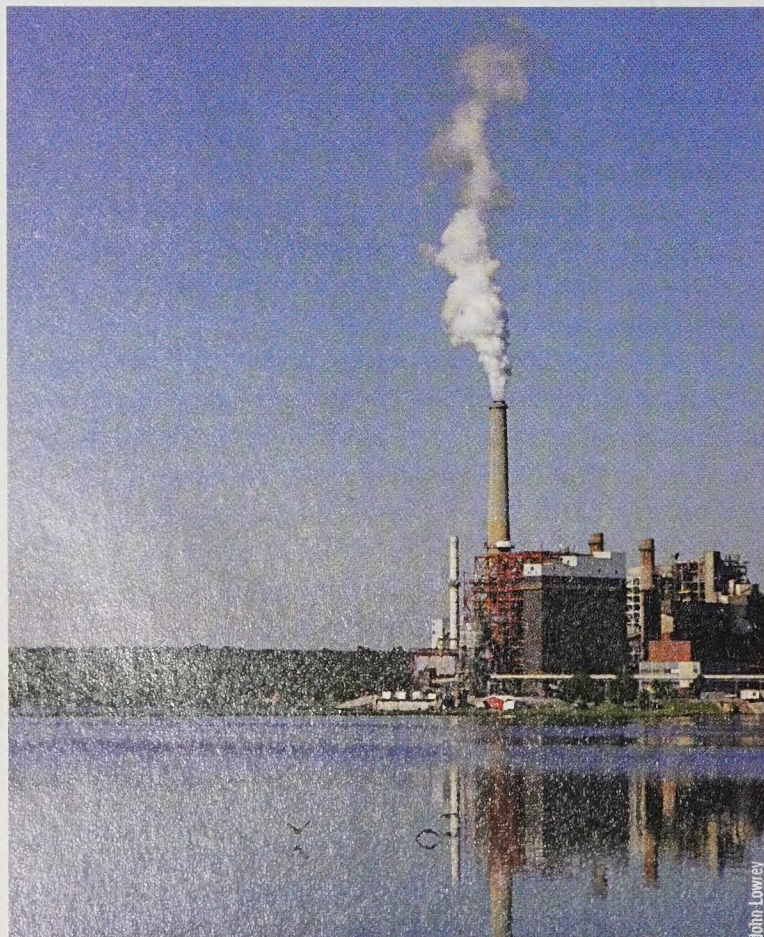
"We believe it is possible to find solutions that balance the environment and the economy," NCEMC's Brannan said. "We will work with elected officials and regulators to represent the voices of our consumer-members across the state."

North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties. 

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Our goals are to provide electricity at the lowest possible cost and to keep our members' interests first

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John Lowrey





# Electric cooperatives, pole attachments, and the state legislature

**N**orth Carolina's electric cooperatives appreciate the work and effort put in by Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown (R-Onslow) and House Speaker Pro Tempore Paul "Skip" Stam (R-Wake) in support of a key issue for electric cooperatives and their members.

Sen. Brown and Rep. Stam were the lead sponsors for Senate Bill 88, which was signed into law this summer by Gov. Pat McCrory. The law clarifies that electric co-ops are exempt from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) pole attachment regulations, and it moves resolution of pole attachment disputes to the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

Often, the owner of a utility pole (such as your electric co-op) allows other companies (such as telecommunications providers) to attach to that pole through what is known as a pole attachment agreement, which relieves both companies from having to build their own poles. Electric co-ops sought to clarify our exemption from FCC regulation of pole attachments because these regulations do not allow an electric cooperative to recover the costs of attaching another company's equipment to the electric co-op pole. As not-for-profit businesses, these costs eventually flow to the members of a co-op.

Electric cooperatives turned to leaders in the General Assembly who understand the cooperative business model and this issue's potential impact on our members. The process of turning an idea into a law can often be a long and tangled one to navigate. Rep. Stam and Sen. Brown showed tremendous leadership and exemplified their steadfast support for electric cooperative members with the time and energy they spent guiding our issue through that political process.


While Sen. Brown comes from rural North Carolina and sees the impact electric cooperatives have on rural North Carolina on a day-to-day basis, Rep. Stam lives in an urban district with no electric co-op members, but

understands and appreciates our mission to our members. Despite their different backgrounds, both saw how important this issue was to electric cooperatives and their members, understood the important role electric co-ops play in their communities, and worked tirelessly to get the bill passed.

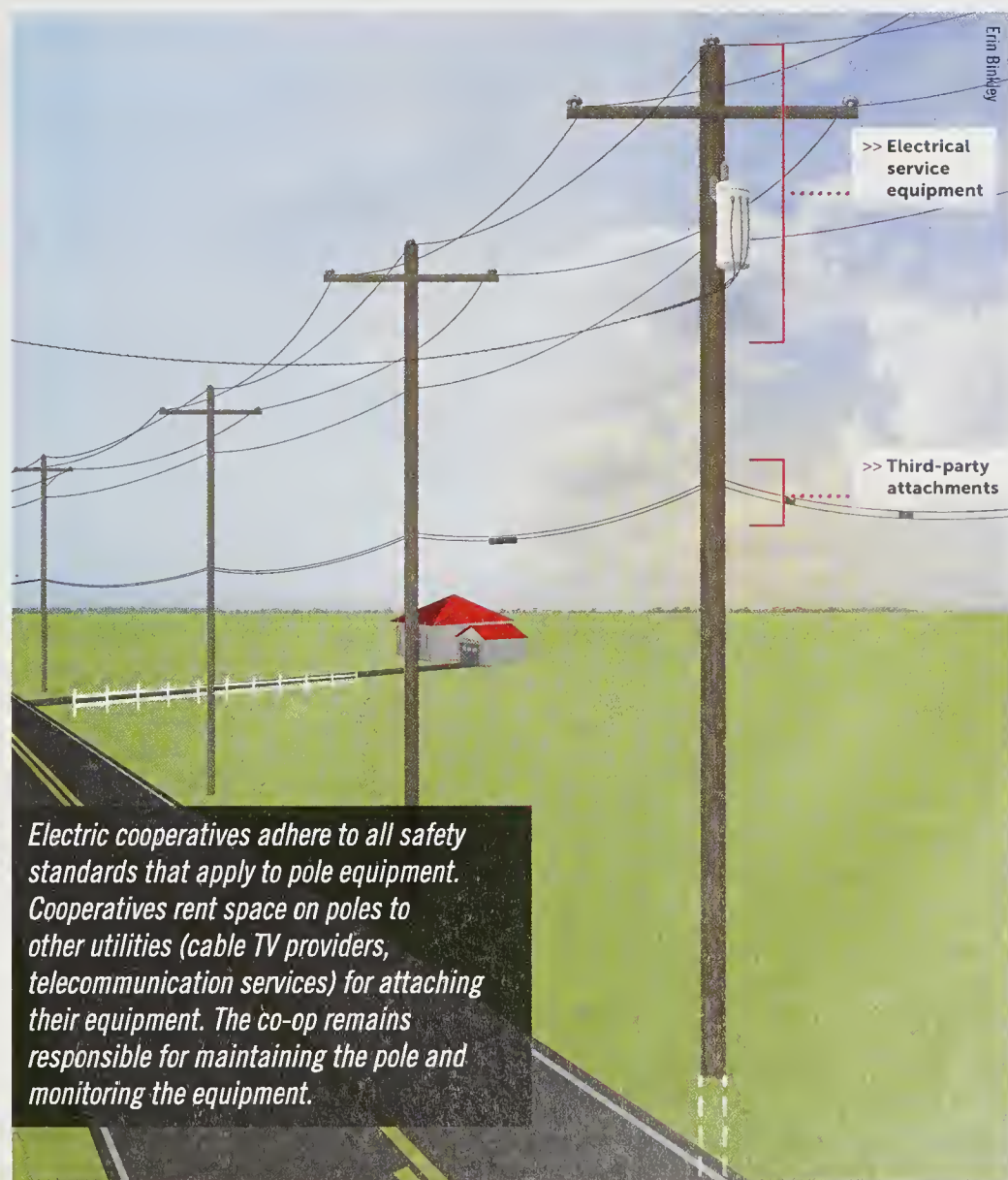
Senate and House leadership as well as the bill's other primary sponsors Reps. David Lewis (R-Harnett), Marvin Lucas (D-Cumberland) and Michele Presnell (R-Yancey) all played key roles in getting this important legislation passed. The bill had 25 total sponsors and co-sponsors in the Senate and 68 in the House.

Legislators understood the importance of this issue thanks to the hard

work and effort put in by the leadership team at each electric cooperative in the state. The electric co-ops' grassroots network of employees and board members across North Carolina made numerous visits and calls and sent e-mails to their local legislators. Without their work as well, this bill would not have been possible.

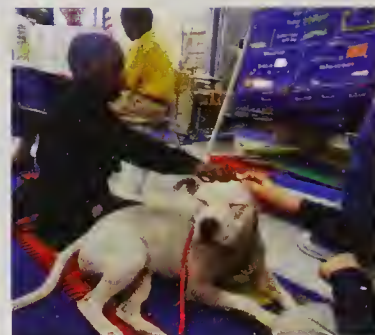
North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives thank Sen. Brown and Rep. Stam for their support and leadership as well as each legislator who gave the bill his or her support. On behalf of the 2.5 million North Carolinians served by electric cooperatives, we thank you. 

*North Carolina Association  
of Electric Cooperatives*



*Electric cooperatives adhere to all safety standards that apply to pole equipment. Cooperatives rent space on poles to other utilities (cable TV providers, telecommunication services) for attaching their equipment. The co-op remains responsible for maintaining the pole and monitoring the equipment.*





# A long way from the backyard chain

By Carol Whitt

**E**verest began his life on the end of a chain, forgotten in a backyard. He was starving until a Good Samaritan noticed and called Animal Control.

I adopted him from the Hertford County animal shelter. When I first saw him he had sores on his body. He was so dirty, I thought he was gray.

Then his life changed. And he began changing the lives of others as well.

Everest went through obedience training and became a Canine Good Citizen with the American Kennel Club. Then he became an AKC-certified and registered Therapy Dog. And through it all he never stopped wagging his tail.


Everest works with children in his very own reading program in the Gates and Murfreesboro libraries. He helps them to overcome their fear of reading by being a non-judgmental, loving listener. He doesn't care if you're not reading it right or if you missed a word. He just cares that you're reading and petting him.

The children strengthen their skills and self-confidence with every sentence they read to him as they gently pet him. He is their trustworthy four-legged mentor and friend.

He also teaches children about the humane treatment of dogs and about dog safety, hoping they someday will help

people in our communities who are not kind to pets.

Everest never meets a stranger. He is loved by many. He attends many events and gives presentations to clubs and organizations to promote literacy, humane education and dog safety.

He even has his own Facebook page, "Everest Out of a Pit." 

*Carol Whitt lives in Gates and is a member of Roanoke Electric Cooperative.*

## See Everest at work

Go to [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com) to see a video of Everest with his reading group.

## Send Your Story

If you have a story for "Where Life Takes Us," about an inspiring person who is helping others today, or about your own journey, send it to us with pictures.

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# Well Above Average

*Students and teachers at Greene Early College do what they love and love what they do*

By Michael E.C. Gery

Look at this particular public high school:

- Every student is the first in their families to finish high school, and every one of them graduates and goes to college.
- There are no discipline problems, no suspensions in three years.
- There's next to no teacher turnover.
- There's 100 percent proficiency on all North Carolina End-of-Year tests.
- The 25 graduating seniors this year were offered \$1.7 million in college scholarships.
- All 160 students go to school year-round for five years.

Look at this community (U.S. Census):

- 35 percent of children grow up in poverty.
- Median household income is \$35,050.
- One in 10 adults has a college degree.
- In 15 percent of families, English is not the spoken language.
- The racial identity is 47 percent Caucasian, 36 percent African American, 15 percent Hispanic.

This is Greene Early College High School in Greene County, N.C. It's on the Snow Hill campus of Lenoir Community College, across the road from a substation maintained by Pitt & Greene EMC, the electric cooperative that proudly serves the communities here.

"The students here really want to go to school," says principal Rodney McNeill. "They want to do more with their lives, see more. They are of average ability, with well above average achievement."

English teacher Emily Garriss has been at this school since doors opened in 2005. "Our students love coming to school," she says. "They want to be here."

And Emily Garriss is a major reason why the students want to be here. Her brown eyes shine and she grins in amazement while watching a student video production based on "The Crucible," the Arthur Miller play conjuring up the Salem witch trials of the late 1690s. Her students study the early 19th century American

transcendentalism of Emerson and Thoreau, as well as today's popular culture.

Senior Cruz Alarcon said, "Teachers here get to know you and become like family."

When Aiven Aguilar, 17, learned he could get a new glass eye, the first thing he did was call his English teacher Emily Garriss. (See his story next page.)

There are eight full-time teachers and a half-time teacher at Greene Early College, plus principal McNeill, a secretary, a guidance counselor, and Carolyn Newcomb, student support and energizer.

Less than half who apply to the Early College's ninth grade are admitted. The successful ones show good grades, sharp testing ability, steady attendance, self-discipline and a marked eagerness to learn and achieve. They come from families that historically are underrepresented in college and economically distressed. With about 12 students per class, their courses are all honors level and college level. They use the East Carolina University Library. After five years, they graduate. They earn a Greene County Public Schools high school diploma and an associate degree from Lenoir Community College transferable to a four-year college.



## North Carolina New Schools and the Three R's

Since 2003, the North Carolina New Schools program has been among the nation's leaders in preparing the state's students for successful college and life experiences. More than 140 schools, 2,700 educators and 40,000 students are part of the program. Greene Early College High School is one of them.

Schools in the network have consistently shown that personalized, disciplined education results in high graduation rates, especially among low-income, minority and otherwise disadvantaged students.

New Schools believes in a curriculum of the Three R's: Rigor, Relevance, Relationships.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are a long-time supporter of North Carolina New Schools and have helped develop its energy curriculum.

Learn more:

North Carolina New Schools: [ncnewschools.org](http://ncnewschools.org)



# An Eye for Aiven

By Aiven Aguilar

When you're 7 years old, the world is still a mystery. As a kid, I had many opportunities to explore and places to see, but that suddenly changed. My eye socket was shattered in a tragic accident. The best doctors in Mexico and America could not save my eye. My eye, as they would say, "had no hope."

Not only did I lose my eye, but I also lost many of my friends in Mexico. I was bullied and called names such as "One Eye" when I would wear my eye patch or "Three Eye" when I would wear my glasses. This whole situation prompted my family to move to North Carolina.

On the first day of school in Snow Hill, I made friends. None of my new friends knew my past or that I had a prosthetic eye, a glass eye. One of my first friends, Miguel Reyes, didn't know that I had a prosthetic eye until I was a 9th grader at Greene Early College High School. In fact, the story about my eye was not a subject that I ever talked about until these recent years at Greene Early College. As a result, my family and friends at Greene Early College gave me the confidence to tell my story.

I've been getting my prosthetic eye made in Mexico since I first lost it at the age of 7. My family would travel back and forth to Mexico to get my new eye every time I outgrew the old one. This past year, when I was 17, my eye became infected because my prosthetic eye was not fitting properly. I had to remove my old eye and wear an eye patch to school for many months until the infection cleared up.

After several months of treatment for the infection, in September 2014 my family filed an insurance claim for me to get a new prosthetic eye here in North Carolina. The cost of being treated by an eye specialist was covered by insurance, so I was very excited and called my English teacher, Ms. Emily Garriss, to tell her the great news.

A few weeks later, we learned that the cost of actually fitting the new prosthetic eye would not be covered by insurance. A glass eye was considered "cosmetic," because it would not restore my vision. My hopefulness turned into hopelessness.

At about this time, Ms. Garriss introduced "The Genius Hour Project" to our 11th grade English class. It was based



on a practice at Google, where employees were encouraged to spend 20 percent of the work week focusing on something they were passionate about. Ms. Garriss challenged our class to spend 20 percent of our time each week on something we were passionate about, but the project had to make an impact on our school, our community, or the world.

A group of my classmates decided to start a campaign to raise money to help me fund my new eye. They called it "An Eye for Aiven." (My name is pronounced "EYE-ven.") At Greene Early College we take community service very seriously, so I've always been adamant about giving back to the community. But I had no idea how much my peers, my teachers and the community cared about me. They opened an account, raised awareness and money, and we could afford my new eye. This greatly touched my heart. I shed more than a few tears.

I can't thank enough everyone who donated and spread the word about my cause and kept me in their prayers. My friends and classmates — Abraham Aguilar, Javier Avila, D.J. Cobb, Antonio Herrera, Jesus Morales and Miguel Reyes — took a small idea and made it have a lifelong impact.

*Aiven Aguilar is a senior at Greene Early College, an honor student, a member of the National Beta Club, and of Phi Theta Kappa, the academic honor organization for junior colleges.*

## Community service is part of the culture

There are no Greene Early College sports teams. "Academics are our sports," the principal says. But there is community service. During the most recent school year, these young people volunteered 3,778 hours for community projects.

Ever since the school first opened and received a national Learn and Serve America Grant, community service has been engrained in the school's operation. Students attend Early College tuition-free and have free textbooks and technology, so "giving back" comes naturally. An arranged Community Service Fair introduced students to leaders from school, civic, religious, government and non-profit organizations willing to take volunteers. The students did the rest. They devoted some 1,600 hours to local schools, translating for parents, helping

at events, gardening at Snow Hill Primary, helping with Read Across America, teaching English. Other service went to, among others, Interfaith, Greene County Museum, blood drives, American Legion, Parks and Recreation, Big Sweep, Adopt a Highway, Proud to Be an American Day, scouts, Latino Festival, fire departments.

"Community service has become a part of the culture," says Emily Garriss, co-sponsor with Heather Davis of the GEC Community Service Club. "The students learned far more from this project than they could have ever learned from a textbook." ❶

See a video about Greene Early College at [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)



In the late 1930s, rural communities in the United States experienced something for the first time—electric power. Neighbors formed their own cooperatives to make electricity not only a possibility, but also a means of prosperity for their farms, houses, schools, hospitals and businesses.

Cooperatives later extended the same energy to help communities around

the world that had no electric power. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed an agreement of cooperation between the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to create NRECA International. Since then, the 250 rural electrification programs that NRECA International has established in Latin America, Africa and Asia have

provided more than 110 million people in more than 43 developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. These efforts continue to be made possible with generous funding and support from USAID and multilateral development banks.

U.S. electric cooperatives also have joined forces with NRECA International. With support from co-op leaders, volunteers and staff, NRECA International has constructed and upgraded power lines and trained local power utility staff to help build institutional capacity and ensure these utilities experience long term success.

Currently, NRECA International is helping more than 42,000 people in Haiti, 7,000 in Tanzania, 4 million in the Philippines and more than 500,000 in Uganda. Behind these numbers are families and communities who are beginning a better life. Streets are made safer by streetlights; studying and reading isn't limited by daylight; doctors can utilize more equipment and access more medicine thanks to refrigeration; and irrigation techniques have improved with the help of powered water pumps.

### Helping Haiti

As the dust settled in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on the evening of January 12, 2010, a landscape of devastation began to emerge. The 7.0-magnitude earthquake that struck just before 5 p.m. had reduced most of the densely populated city and surrounding villages to rubble. Some 230,000 people died. Another 300,000 were injured. And more than a million were left homeless.

NRECA International responded immediately to reach the ruined city by mobilizing a highly specialized team of relief and restoration services experts. The team supported reconstruction activities with Electricité d'Haiti (EdH), Haiti's national electric utility, and was part of a multi-national relief and restoration effort.

The team focused first on restoring

# Cooperatives without borders

**For more than 50 years, U.S. electric cooperatives have shared their expertise with world communities that have needed it most**

*By Zuraidah Hoffman | All photos by NRECA International*





## LEARN MORE

- See people in Haiti describe firsthand their need for electric power at [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com).
- On our website, see a slide show of more pictures of the Haiti project, [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)
- To learn how NRECA International improves the quality of life for people around the world, visit [nrecainternational.coop](http://nrecainternational.coop), send an e-mail to [international.foundation@nreca.coop](mailto:international.foundation@nreca.coop) or call (703) 907-5645.



*Top photo: Haitian lineman in Caracol.*

*Bottom photo: U.S. electric cooperative volunteers with linemen in Coteaux, Haiti.*

power to critical facilities such as hospitals, relief centers and refugee camps. Less than a month later, an EdH-NRECA team had restored a 69-kilovolt line, the first reenergized grid power since the quake.

Following the success of the emergency response team, EdH requested that NRECA International continue its support. Under the sponsorship of the World Bank, the team coordinated reconstruction efforts and mentored EdH engineering personnel, including providing safety training to more than 100 local linemen.

### It starts with power

Since then, in northern Haiti, about 36,000 people live and work in towns where they have access to 24/7 electricity, which was not the case two years ago. Today, a new power plant, a more effective distribution grid and power lines, and an established private utility—all managed by NRECA International—provide power to five towns and more will be added soon.

Since electrification a year ago,


the community is getting used to the changes, starting with the schools. “If we did not have electricity, our technology room would not have been in operation because there is a need to charge about 35 laptops on a regular basis,” said Jean Mirvil, headmaster of the S&H School in Caracol.

“One could rarely go a day without receiving the news of an event of a shop being robbed in one neighborhood or another,” said Gary Michel, a community leader from Trou Du Nord. “Today, thanks to the establishment of the electric light, residents are no longer closing their doors at 7:30 in the evening as they did in the days of darkness.”

“The medical equipment is working with electric energy! That has been a huge event,” said Dr. Rolando Garcia, a doctor at the hospital from the same town. “The hospital is now full of patients waiting to see their doctors; before there were no patients at all. Now they come because they know they are going to get an x-ray,

an electro cardiogram, get ultra sound treatment.”

In the southwestern region of Haiti, NRECA International helped establish the country’s first electric co-op. During last year, 28 volunteers from 25 NRECA member cooperatives traveled to Coteaux to help more than 6,000 residents benefit from 33 miles of new or upgraded power lines. When the solar-diesel hybrid power system is completed this year, many people in these communities will turn lights on for the first time.

Every day, NRECA International’s team of engineers, economists, country directors, volunteers and doors continue to make these connections to help communities step out of subsistence living and onto a more equal playing field with the rest of the world. 

*Zuraidah Hoffman is the communications manager for NRECA International, and writes on international affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# MODEL MAN

*Belhaven's Jimmy Courson and his model ships show real strength and determination*



*Jimmy Courson crouches behind his rendition of Coast Guard Cutter Kennebec in his yard in Belhaven this spring. Jimmy has been building model ships, including models of Coast Guard cutters, for 57 years.*

*Text and photos by Nate Littlejohn, Petty Officer 2nd Class, U.S. Coast Guard*

**O**n a sunny afternoon, in a town where Pantego Creek meets Pungo River, just northwest of the Pamlico Sound in North Carolina's Inner Banks region, a 70-year-old man on an old-fashioned bicycle glides down a dirt lane lined with humble homes. He wears a gritty, somehow gentle expression on his tan, weathered face, despite his missing left eye and lack of an upper left jawbone. He proudly tows behind him a wagon with a beautiful wooden replica of a Coast Guard cutter he built himself from scratch.

The town is Belhaven, Beaufort County, an inviting and popular port of call for recreational boaters traveling the Atlantic Coast. The self-proclaimed "Birthplace of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway," Belhaven is a place where most folks offer a welcoming wave whether they know you or not. You'd likely have to search all day, though, to find a local here who doesn't know Jimmy Courson. In roles he may not fully understand, Jimmy's determination, resilience and passion have a tremendous impact on the lives of those around him.

## **A Coast Guardsman at heart**

He is a detail-oriented man devoted to his art, inspired by the rich maritime culture that surrounded him his entire life. Jimmy has lived in Belhaven since his family moved here during the late 1940s. He's well-known today for his tireless fervor for building model boats, often intricate replicas of Coast Guard ships known as cutters.

Jimmy attended John A. Wilkinson public school until 8th grade, but because of complications at birth that resulted in his learning disability, he attended a special-needs class for the next three years. When he wasn't in school, he was busy building model boats.

"The earliest I recall Jimmy building model ships was when he was about 13," said Reid Courson, Jimmy's younger brother. "It became obvious early on he favored the Coast Guard crafts. This had a lot to do with the fact that it was not uncommon in those days for one of the 95-foot Coast Guard cutters to stop at the docks in Belhaven."

The cutters passing through weren't all that inspired Jimmy—he was influenced by the seagoing military service of his family, his community, the eastern North Carolina region and beyond. Jimmy's father, James, served in the Navy from 1919 to 1945. His uncle, Clyde Farrow, retired from the Coast Guard as the last attending officer at the buoy tender station in nearby Washington. There was also an active Coast Guard Station in Belhaven in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

His father had an old shed in the backyard, a few hand tools and usually some scrap lumber suitable for making small boats. Reid said many neighborhood kids would make crude boats they could pull in the shallow water on the shores of the Pungo River. Jimmy took his model building to a higher level by following the design of existing Coast Guard vessels, replicating the operating parts from whatever hardware he could find.



“He really came up with some interesting improvisations,” said Reid, “trying to duplicate the mechanics and outfitting of everything from Coast Guard cutters and buoy tenders to shrimp boats and barges.”

Up until his late 50s, Jimmy rode his bicycle from Belhaven to Swan Quarter, about 28 miles, took the ferry to Ocracoke, and visited with Coast Guard personnel at the station there. He continued on to the Hatteras Inlet Ferry and stayed at Midgett’s Motel in Hatteras Village. It wasn’t uncommon for him to tow behind him on a wagon a model boat weighing 10 pounds to 30 pounds.

Jimmy visited other Coast Guard stations over the years: Fort Macon, Oak Island, Morehead. He was declared an honorary Coast Guardsman on more than one occasion, and has a collection of Coast Guard covers and pins. Photo albums in his home document his relationship with the Coast Guard. About 13 years ago, his visits to Coast Guard stations tapered off as he began to experience health issues.

## Cancer

In 2002, Jimmy told Reid he had been experiencing some bleeding from his gums.

“I immediately took him to a dentist who sent us to an oral surgeon,” said Reid. “A biopsy revealed cancerous activity in Jimmy’s oral cavity. Follow-up visits to specialists resulted in extensive surgery followed by radiation. This treatment failed, and the following surgery took his left eye, his upper left jawbone, and the entire roof of his mouth, which had to be rebuilt with flesh from his back. Recovery from this second surgery was slow and difficult. Jimmy could no longer smell, eat or speak normally. The extensive radiation resulted in the loss of all his teeth and created an opening in the roof of his mouth. When I was told he would lose an eye in the last surgery, I was very anxious concerning whether he would be able to continue his first love and favorite pastime of constructing models. But with enough time, he returned to his work. Bit by bit he returned to his work, and today, he’s as full-time as ever.”

These days it is difficult to make out everything Jimmy says, but he



Jimmy’s determination, resilience and passion have a tremendous impact on the lives of those around him.

enthusiastically describes almost any model in his collection if asked politely at the right place at the right time.

## Inspiring others

Though he’s now 70, Jimmy still gets around on his bike, riding across town to Belhaven’s waterfront.

That’s how David Friedrich met Jimmy for the first time. A recreational boater who stopped in Belhaven during a voyage along the Atlantic Coast, Friedrich’s first encounter with Jimmy occurred during an especially difficult time in Friedrich’s life—the recent death of his son, killed in the war in Iraq.

Friedrich said when they met Jimmy was slowly towing a red wagon carrying a large model of a tug boat pushing a barge. “His bike was nice and shiny, the wagon had impressive pneumatic tires and the thick, six-foot model had been accurately constructed by this fine craftsman who just happened to be

lacking a portion of the left side of his face and head,” recalled Friedrich. “He came up on the porch and sat in the chair to my right. I glanced up and said, ‘Hi. How ya doing?’ He replied by starting to hum a song. He hummed for ten more minutes or so, then moseyed over to his bike and gently left.”

The impact on Friedrich was tremendous. He went on to write about it in a log he kept during the voyage.

“I am reminded many times of the fellow I met in Belhaven, North Carolina,” wrote Friedrich. “He suffered a tremendous event which made the left side of his face look like something had scooped out about half of it. But he had somehow recreated his life, which involved building beautiful models of boats and parading them around his little, friendly and accepting town.”

Friedrich moved to Belhaven in 2007. His relationship with Jimmy continues to play an important role in grieving and healing.

“Like Jimmy, a tremendous event scooped out a large chunk of my spirit and soul,” said Friedrich. “Jimmy is part of what inspired me to move to Belhaven. Moving here has been a part of my effort to recover from the loss of my son and recreate my life. Jimmy inspires me through his actions. Every day, he demonstrates a valuable life lesson—to have something to do and to get busy doing it.”

*Petty Officer Nate Littlejohn, a public affairs specialist, is based in Portsmouth, Va., in the Coast Guard 5th District. He helped to arrange for Jimmy Courson to meet the Commandant of the Coast Guard at an event in late May when Elizabeth City was declared an official Coast Guard City.*



*Jimmy Courson (left) and Dave Friedrich work on a model in Courson’s garage in Belhaven, Thursday, April 9, 2015. To see a video of the two working together visit [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com)*



## WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS? →



### August winner

About 40 of you recognized the scene of Michael Gery's photograph in the August magazine. It shows Mill Prong house on Edinburgh Road in the community of Bowmore near Raeford, Hoke County. Tina Rickard of Sanford told us she and her brother own the farm and donated the house, which is owned by Mill Prong Preservation. Built in 1795 (near the Mill Prong stream) and remodeled in the 1830s, the house was restored finally in 1993 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open Sunday afternoons. Some of you thought it is Harper House on Bentonville Battlefield. The winning entry chosen at random from all correct submissions came from Bruce Willoughby of Raeford, a member of Lumbee River EMC.

This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by Sept. 5 with your name, address and the name of your electric cooperative.

**Online:** carolinacountry.com

**By e-mail:** where@carolinacountry.com

**Or by mail:** Where in Carolina Country?  
P.O. Box 27306  
Raleigh, NC 27611

*Multiple entries from the same person will be disqualified.*

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our October issue, will receive \$25. To see the answer before you get your October magazine, go to "Where Is This?" on our website carolinacountry.com.

### August









**The Worthington**
**2923SqFt.**

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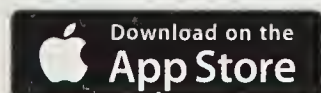
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North Carolina's  
Electric Cooperatives  
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# Digital marketing

## *Five tips to expand your small business*

Whether you're just starting a small business or looking to expand an existing operation, marketing either can seem daunting. The key is to establish your presence, drive leads to your business and expand your audience.

**E**ven for businesses that serve a primarily local clientele, it's important to remember that today's customers are more connected than ever before. Technology enables them to rely on mobile devices, web searches and other online tools to research businesses and make purchasing decisions.

Small businesses often work within a limited budget. But don't let pinched funds get in the way of smart spending. Products that boost your digital presence and performance can help your business get found by consumers and grow your customer base.

YP, a local marketing solutions provider, offers this advice:

■ **Mobile really matters.** Almost everyone today owns a smartphone. Yet you'd be surprised by the number of businesses that have not optimized their websites for mobile devices. Not only do mobile responsive sites load faster and provide a better experience, they also help with your ranking in search engine results (also known as search engine optimization or SEO).

■ **Keep your online presence current.** Think of your online presence as a business card you hand out. Ensure your digital and mobile

presence is current and cohesive across all online media. Have you recently changed contact information, such as phone number, email or address?

Supervising this online business card takes time and effort, but the payoff comes with customers who can easily find you and your products or services. Consider setting a regular calendar reminder to review all online channels for relevance and accuracy.

■ **Create valuable content.** Can't think of what to say? Customers are often drawn to tip-based content related to your industry or product, such as best practices or top five tips. Either use a strong writer on your team or seek professional help elsewhere.

Rich content, especially photos and videos, helps engage consumers. As a rule of thumb, you should update images on a quarterly basis. For blogs, update the content weekly, and host the blog on your business' primary website to keep your audience from clicking away from your site.

Post blog headlines and timely information or calls to action *above the fold* (where they can be

seen without scrolling) so customers can access them easily.

■ **Reputation and reviews matter.** Establishing a loyal customer base means monitoring your online ratings and reviews regularly. A business owner who reaches out to customers for all feedback they provide—whether positive or negative—creates a powerful statement. Addressing or correcting any errors shows accountability for your business and can build loyalty.

■ **Drive traffic.** Bidding on keywords is the foundation of a search engine marketing (SEM) campaign, which allows you to promote your business within online searches.

As you begin, opt for smaller, more targeted keywords such as your company name. Stay away from generic terms that describe your business, such as "bakery," as this will bring competition from other same or similar businesses (and more expensive click costs). Instead, try the category plus geography keywords, such as "bakery Asheboro." 📍

—FamilyFeatures.com

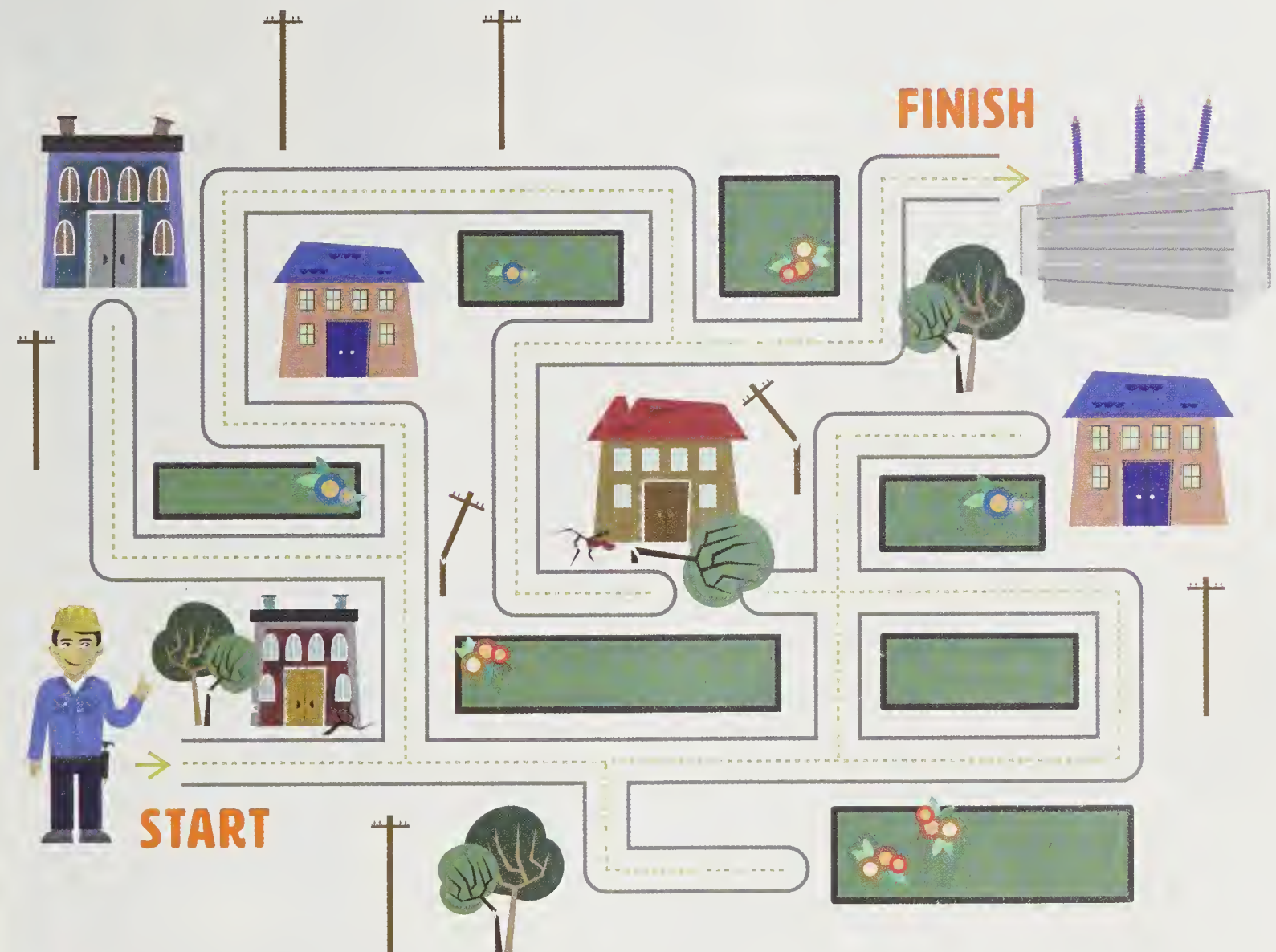
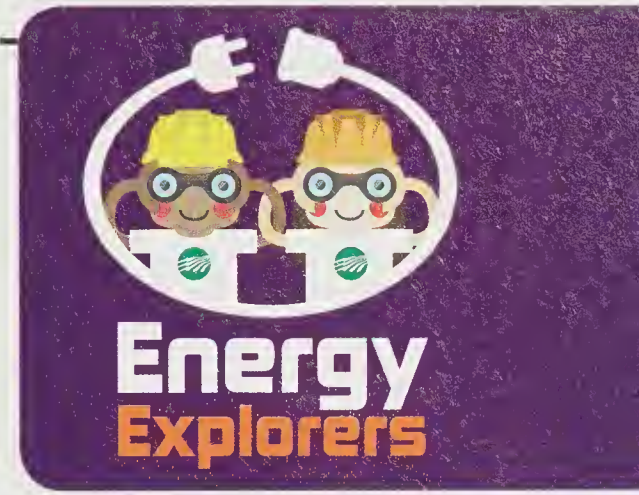




# Power Outage Maze Activity

If you've ever experienced a severe storm, you're probably familiar with power outages. Our local linemen come to the rescue and are responsible for fixing electrical damage to restore power to our homes.

Help the lineman get to the transformer to fix the power outage!



America's Electric  
Cooperatives



# Splurging sensibly

*How to have fun while avoiding buyer's remorse*

*By Alexandria Shetler*

The Consumer Federation of America reported that the average American spends \$2,000 a year on unexpected expenditures. In other words, Americans like to splurge (when their unexpected spending is not used for emergency situations, that is).

**L**uckily, splurging may not be as impulsive or as harmful as it sounds, as long as it is done in a thoughtful way. By building responsible splurging tactics into your discretionary income budget, you can reward yourself today while staying focused on your long-term financial goals.

Practice “sensible” splurging versus “mindless” splurging. Also, when you find yourself tempted to splurge, ask yourself, “Why do I want or need this?” and “What positive purpose is this going to serve?”

Asking this before you buy helps you identify emotional triggers and avoid buyer's remorse. Here are some tips to keep your budget balanced:

■ **Splurge for free.** Indulge in free splurges to treat yourself. Time with loved ones is often the best gift you can give yourself. Whether it's going to a free museum, a park to play with your kids or pets, or enjoying the sunset from a friend's backyard while laughing the hours away, learn to master the art of savoring the little things in life.

■ **Splurge towards others, within reason.** Spending on others can make

us happier than spending on ourselves. Consider using part of your splurging budget moderately for family, friends and a charity.

■ **Splurge small and frequently.** Social psychologists say that small and frequent splurges actually help people achieve financial happiness. The pleasure it provides quenches your thirst for splurging while improving your relationship with your money. It can also help you avoid big splurges. Do this by factoring small splurging into your budget. Set aside a certain amount of money each month for this.

■ **Splurge from your savings and never use a credit card.** Use the cash you set aside from your discretionary spending. Remember, the point is to spend only money you have, not money you don't have.

Overall, just remember that healthy splurging habits are created by making smart decisions that positively affect your current well-being while maintaining progress towards your long-term goals. ①

*Alexandria Shetler writes and edits for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



## Local treats

Need some fun suggestions? Buy handicrafts you admire in your town's gift shops or at the state's many museum stores, treat yourself to a hunting or fishing trip through local outfitters, purchase that pottery dinner set you've always wanted in Seagrove, or savor old-fashioned candy at some of North Carolina's iconic stores such as Mast General Store (locations include Waynesville, Valle Crucis and Boone).

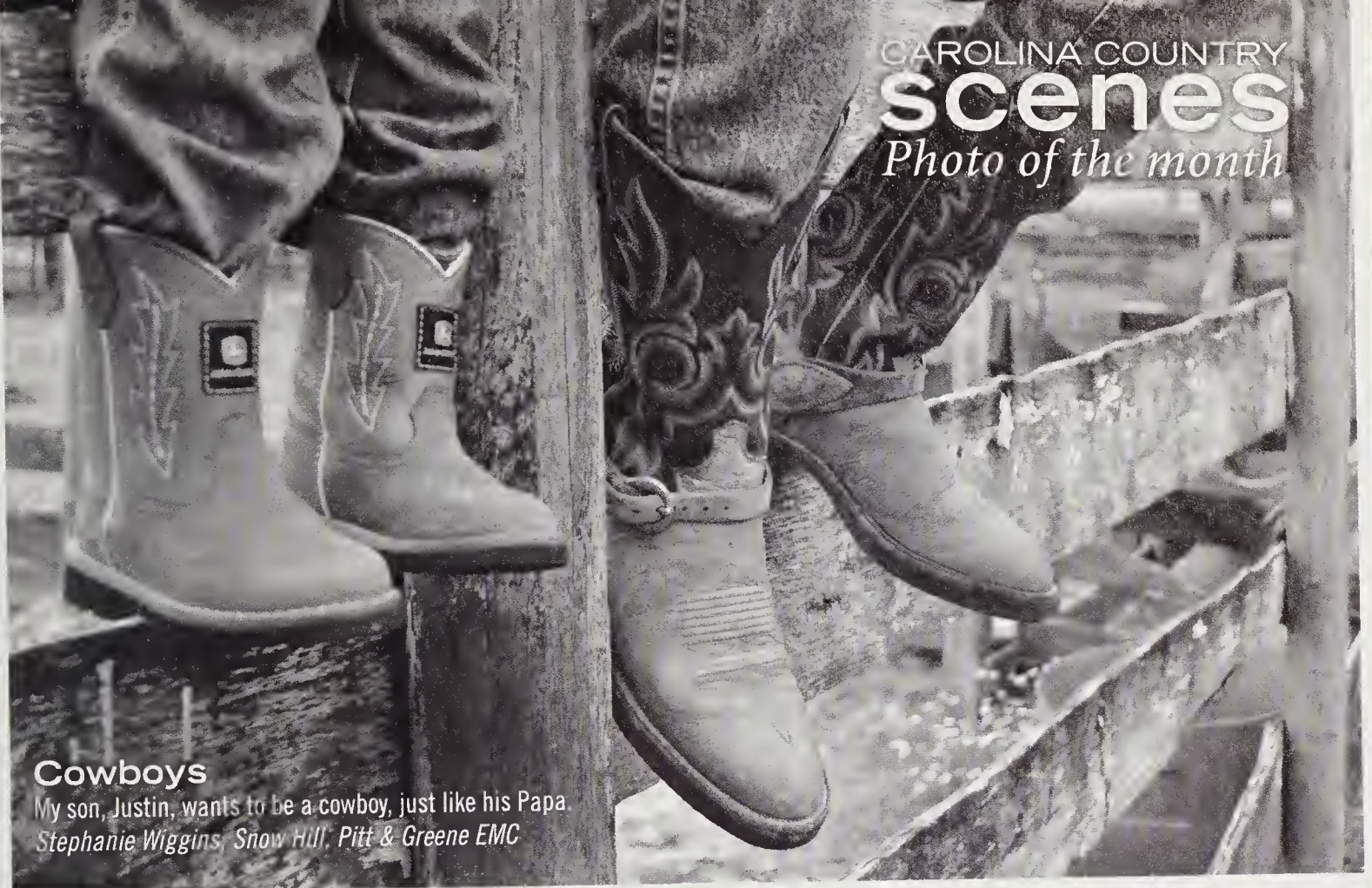
Pack a picnic and head for a park or one of North Carolina's beautiful beaches. Put aside some money for the relatively new Sea Life Aquarium in Concord or take a free historic tour of Halifax's colonial village. It's not hard to think of ideas—it's simply a matter of budgeting for your splurges!



*Visit the new Sea Life Aquarium in Concord.*



CAROLINA COUNTRY  
**scenes**  
*Photo of the month*



### Cowboys

My son, Justin, wants to be a cowboy, just like his Papa.  
*Stephanie Wiggins, Snow Hill, Pitt & Greene EMC*

The Photo of the Month comes from those that scored an honorable mention from the judges in our 2015 photo contest ("Carolina Country Scenes," February 2015). See even more at the Photo of the Week on our website [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com).

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T

# Clogged, Backed—up Septic System...Can anything Restore It?

**DEAR DARRYL:** My home is about 10 years old, and so is my septic system. I have always taken pride in keeping my home and property in top shape. In fact, my neighbors and I are always kidding each other about who keeps their home and yard nicest. Lately, however, I have had a horrible smell in my yard, and also in one of my bathrooms, coming from the shower drain. My grass is muddy and all the drains in my home are very slow.



My wife is on my back to make the bathroom stop smelling and as you can imagine, my neighbors are having a field day, kidding me about the mud pit and sewage stench in my yard. It's humiliating. I called a plumber buddy of mine, who recommended pumping (and maybe even replacing) my septic system. But at the potential cost of thousands of dollars, I hate to explore that option.

I tried the store bought, so called, Septic treatments out there, and they did Nothing to clear up my problem. Is there anything on the market I can pour or flush into my system that will restore it to normal, and keep it maintained?

*Clogged and Smelly – Raleigh, NC*

**DEAR CLOGGED AND SMELLY:** As a reader of my column, I am sure you are aware that I have a great deal of experience in this particular field. You will be glad to know that there IS a septic solution that will solve your back-up and effectively restore your entire system from interior piping throughout the septic system and even unclog the drain field as well. **SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** deliver your system the fast active bacteria and enzymes needed to liquefy solid waste and free the clogs causing your back-up.

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**SeptiCleanse® Shock and Maintenance Programs** are designed to work on any septic system regardless of design or age. From modern day systems to sand mounds, and systems installed generations ago, I have personally seen SeptiCleanse unclog and restore these systems in a matter of weeks. I highly recommend that you try it before spending any money on repairs. SeptiCleanse products are available online at [www.septicleanse.com](http://www.septicleanse.com) or you can order or learn more by calling toll free at 1-888-899-8345. If you use the promo code "DARNC11", you can get a free shock treatment, added to your order, which normally costs \$169. So, make sure you use that code when you call or buy online.



# I Remember...



## Landing a hot air balloon

I've surf fished for those big Cape Hatteras red drum for 40 years. Often you have to make a long cast to reach them. On May 16, 1993, I was practicing my long cast in a field beside my home in Linwood, Davidson County, when I looked up and saw the Cape Hatteras lighthouse. I figured that I'd been in the sun way too long.

But sure enough, there was a North Carolina hot air balloon, painted with the Cape Hatteras lighthouse, and it was in trouble and about to crash. It was falling fast, headed to my shop, barely missed the power lines, crash landed then turned over in my field about 60 feet below the shop. Stunned, I ran to it, certain to find the pilot dead or badly injured, but out he crawled no worse for wear.

About 10 minutes later, four trucks of his friends pulled alongside the old dirt road to disassemble the balloon and basket. The pilot was Chip Parks. Before leaving, they took a picture of me holding my big surf rod along with the crowd of rescuers. They joked about what bait I used to catch it.

*Steve Sink, Linwood, Energy United*

## SEND US YOUR Memories

We'll pay \$50 for those we publish in the magazine.

### Guidelines:

1. Approximately 200 words.
2. Digital photos must be at least 600kb or 1200 by 800 pixels.
3. Only one entry per household per month.
4. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want yours returned.
5. We retain reprint rights.
6. Include your name, mailing address and the name of your electric cooperative. Also, your phone number or e-mail address in case of questions.
7. Online: [carolinacountry.com/contact](http://carolinacountry.com/contact)  
E-mail ("Memories" in subject line.): [iremember@carolinacountry.com](mailto:iremember@carolinacountry.com)  
Or by U.S. mail: I Remember, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616

## Ragbags

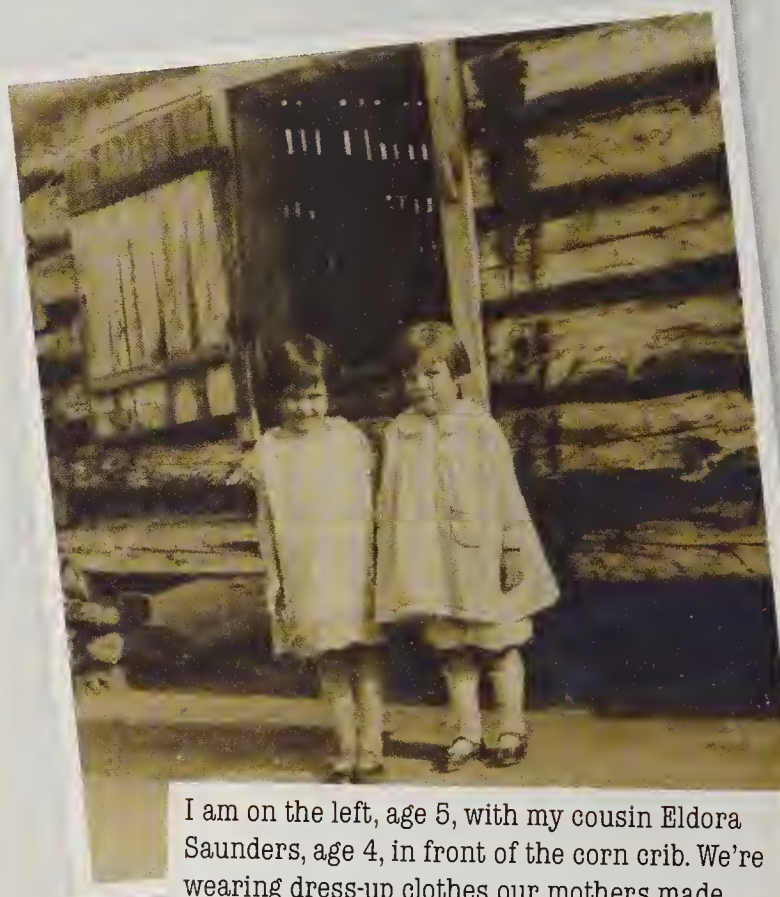
I was born in 1921, the time of "eat it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." The nation was moving into the Deep Depression following the years of the First World War.

I remember ragbags, an essential part of every household at that time. My mother had three of them, each with specific contents. Bag One was for new fabrics, leftover from our homemade dresses, all saved to make quilts or those fads of the day, yo-yo covers. Bag Two was for worn sheets with unworn parts that could be made into pillowcases, napkins, even men's handkerchiefs. Bag Three was for leftover used sheeting to be cut into strips and used for bandages. Some of those rolled bandages were in the closet with the rest of the old-timey remedies like goose grease and iodine. After all, Band-Aids weren't even invented until the year before I was born, and they certainly didn't take the nation by storm.

Sometimes I was given pieces from Bag One to make doll dresses, a special gift because each small bit could be used to make something special, a fabric rose as trim for a new dress or a blouse. We treasured each piece of fabric, every scrap of meat, resoled all our shoes at the metal shoe piece in the basement.

When people complain about the lack of money in today's economy, I tell them about our Depression days. I turned 94 in August and had worked in the office until 92.

*Fran Farlow, Gastonia, Rutherford EMC*



I am on the left, age 5, with my cousin Eldora Saunders, age 4, in front of the corn crib. We're wearing dress-up clothes our mothers made.





## The big family

This picture from September 1978 shows me (Betty Jean Royster) at 13 on the right, my baby sister (Elaine Royster) at 9 in the middle, and my older sister (Annie Mae Royster) at 16 on the left. That day we felt like dress up. I dressed as a hunter, Elaine dressed as a man, and Annie Mae dressed as a construction worker.

I had eight brothers and five sisters. We didn't have a lot of money, but we had a lot of love in our home. Our father, Ivery Joe Royster, was a construction worker. We farmed tobacco and planted three gardens. Our father and brothers built the house we're standing in front of. We moved into it 1974, six bedrooms and, at last, indoor plumbing.

Our mother, Mary Ann Royster, was a homemaker who made sure we had hot food and biscuits on the table. Her fried chicken on Sundays was the best I have ever eaten. She made sure we had clean clothes. We had one of those ringer wash machines with the tub on the other side in a chair. And a clothes line outside.

Mom and Dad passed away and five of my brothers are deceased. My two sisters in the picture are deceased. I miss them all so much.

My husband, Dale Kernodle, and I put our home in the same spot in Caswell County where this house was. We raised our two children here. Eboni Kernodle is 25 and Dale Jr. is 19.

I thank God for wonderful parents.

*Betty Kernodle, Semora, Piedmont Electric*

## Assurance

My dad was 83 years old and had been falling due to Parkinson's disease. During the two years of falling, he needed to get stitches in his head a few times. This developed blood clots on the brain, but the doctor did not recommend surgery. Dad soon became bed-ridden. After several mini-strokes it was hard for him to eat or talk.

He was a Christian several years before this, but I wanted the assurance that he was still serving the Lord.

One day his doctor told me Dad had only a few months to live. When I got home that afternoon, my daughter, who looked after my dad, told me a story. She said Dad was sleeping when my 9-year-old grandson went to her and said he saw an angel walk through the dining room into the living room by Dad and disappear. Some 20 to 30 minutes later, my daughter went to check on Dad and asked if he was OK. He said, "Why did you wake me? There was an angel playing beautiful music on an autoharp."

I felt like that was my assurance from the Lord that dad was ready to go to Heaven.

*Essie Nealey, Tabor City, Brunswick EMC*

## Louey attends a funeral

Louey, our 10-year-old yellow lab, knew and loved our Nannie. She had lived with us in the First Baptist Parsonage of West Jefferson for a period of time and was grandmother to our four children. This beautiful dog adored her and conversed with her in his own language.

When Nannie died, our family, church members and neighbors came by the parsonage to console us in our sorrow. The boys walked down the street to the church to attend the funeral service. Louey walked with them and entered the church. He walked straight down the aisle to the casket, where he stopped and looked at Nannie in a very affectionate manner. Then he turned, walked back up the aisle, and went home. He didn't bother anyone or bark at anything.

It was Louey's special good-bye to his Nannie, like a Walt Disney movie character coming to life. He had a job to do, and he was pleased to be able to say his good-byes.

*Judy Morris, West Jefferson, Blue Ridge Electric*

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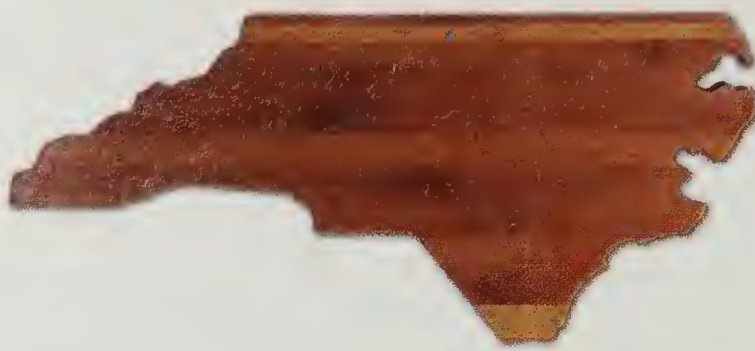
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### North Carolina-shaped cutting boards

Attention, companies and families! Looking to buy a useful Christmas gift or thank-you item in bulk with a North Carolina theme? Choice Concepts, based in Macon, Ga., sells N.C.-shaped cutting boards made of bamboo. Bamboo, a renewable resource, is harder than maple butcher block and will not dull knives. The boards are 18-by-8-by  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches. Prices are \$20 each if you buy 24 boards (minimum purchase) and \$18.50 each if you buy 144 boards. Prices include a small laser engraving (2-by-1-inch) of a logo. Choice Concepts, created by co-ops, also offers other North Carolina-oriented products as well.

(888) 741-8988  
[choiceconcepts.coop](http://choiceconcepts.coop)

### J & R Worm Farm

James Henderson sells colored and non-colored worms by mail order that can be used for fishing bait and also sells compost worms and earthworm castings for gardening. His multi-colored worms are all-natural (no chemicals) and guaranteed to be alive upon arrival. Henderson, a long-time EnergyUnited member, started his Lexington-based business after researching on how to improve his garden soil. He discovered that earthworm castings can enrich and re-vitalize soil and began raising European Night Crawlers and Red Wigglers. He sells a cup of colored earthworms for \$5 and a cup of non-colored worms for \$3.50. He has new colors on the way, and sells worm castings for \$3 per pound.

(336) 250-2834  
[jandrwormfarm.com](http://jandrwormfarm.com)



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## on the bookshelf

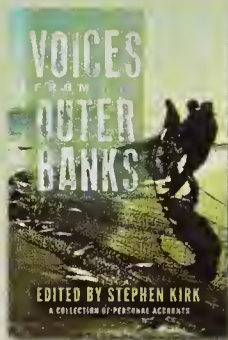
### Voices From the Outer Banks

This volume presents words of people who lived the uncommonly rich history of the barrier islands that stretch from the Virginia border southward through Cape Lookout.

It includes contemporary accounts of the first British settlement in North America, 18th-century articles about the pirate Blackbeard, and insights from family members who once inhabited the nation's most iconic lighthouse.

Topics include "the Graveyard of the Atlantic," a nod to the rough waters that have claimed hundreds of vessels. The volume also includes first-person accounts of Civil War battles, a freedmen's colony, hunt clubs that drew the first wealthy tourists, and lifesavers who used horses to pull surfboats. "Voices From the Outer Banks" is edited by John F. Blair, Publisher's longtime editor Stephen Kirk, who lives near Winston-Salem. The book is part of the publisher's Real Voices, Real History series. Softcover, 256 pages, 20 photos, \$12.95; e-book is \$8.99.

(800) 222-9796  
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### The Body at Wrapp's Mill

Having quit her marriage and teaching career, Marcy Dehane, a newly established mill consultant, arrives at remote Wrapp's Mill in western North Carolina. She expects to land her first employment: implementing the restoration of the deteriorating grist mill. Instead, she finds a half-buried body behind the water wheel. The discovery of the corpse, unknown locally, complicates the possibility of restoring the mill, but with the help of a young female deputy—and a decided lack of enthusiasm from the sheriff's office—Marcy forges ahead, risking her life to solve the murder and to restore the mill. A fan of mysteries, 50-year-old Marcy comes to realize that reading about murder is much safer—if less interesting—than delving headlong into one. The book's author, Celia Miles, lives in Asheville and Lake Lure and is a member of Rutherford EMC. Published by Old Mountain Press in Sylva. Softcover, 246 pages, \$13.95; e-book is \$2.99.

[celiahoopermiles@gmail.com](mailto:celiahoopermiles@gmail.com)  
[celiamiles.com](http://celiamiles.com)

The Body at Wrapp's Mill

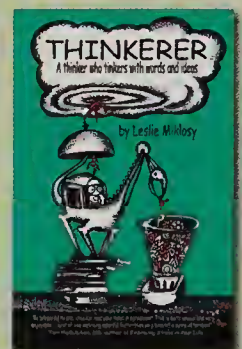


A Great 18th Century Mystery with Marcy Dehane  
 Celia H. Miles

### Thinkerer

This new collection of musings about life takes us to the far corners of writer Leslie Miklosy's imagination. A "thinker who tinkers with words and ideas," he playfully explores—via wit and wordplay—the subtle, the unique, and the universal. At home with both sense and nonsense, he celebrates life while acknowledging its difficulties. His themes include optimism, obstacles, procrastination, relationship to self, aging and the ultimate mystery of our existences. His ponderings include "Will today be a round in a boxing match? Or a walk in the park?" and "We are prize fighters in lifelong struggles with ourselves." A former administrator in mental health and philanthropy, he lives in Fayetteville. VBW Publishing. Softcover, 150 pages, \$13.95; e-book is \$6.99.

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I recently received a book, YOU CAN LEARN TO REMEMBER. I hope there is a "prequel"-YOU CAN REMEMBER TO LEARN.

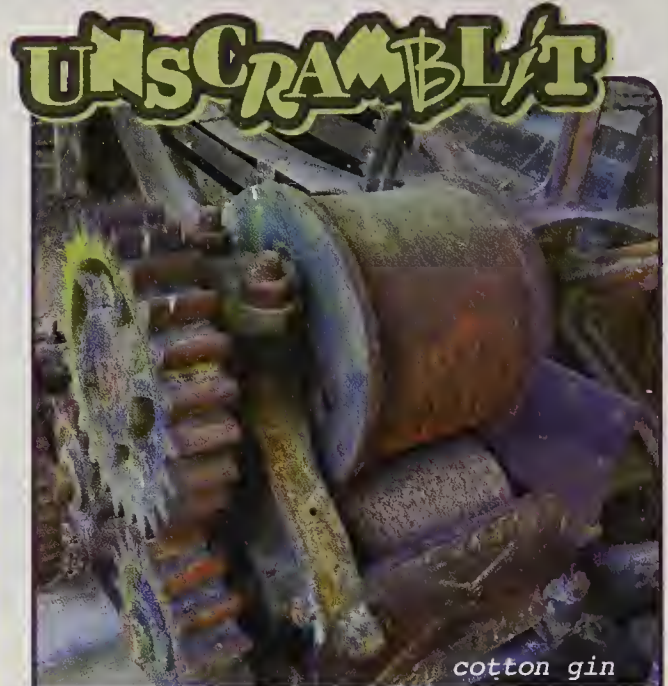
## On the Math Path



$$AB \times AB = BCDE$$

The letters ABCDE stand for the digits 56789, but not in that order. Can you find the value of each letter?

Some people living today were born in a year that was a perfect square. What year was it?



cotton gin

Eli Whitney is a community in \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_ named for the inventor of the cotton gin because there was once a cotton gin in the county.

Use the capital letters in the code key below to fill in the blanks above.

A C E L M N means  
s o l v e d

## OH, HERBERT!



Call me Erb. That's the dictionary pronunciation.



*McCourse*

## WORD ward-wary-pray PLAY

1	A S H E
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	A N S O N

To go from ASHE County to ANSON County, change one letter in each step to spell a new word. Your answer may be different from mine. Send it along to joyner@carolinacountry.com

For answers, please see page 41



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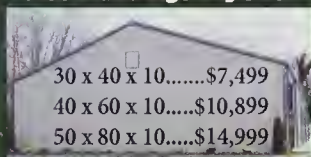
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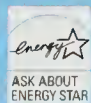
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# September Events



Enjoy a parade, silent auction, games and music while seeing special guests like actress Barbara Eden (*Mayberry's* first manicurist) Wednesday through Sunday, Sept. 23–27, at *Mayberry Days* in Mount Airy. (336) 786-7998 or [mayberrydays.com](http://mayberrydays.com)

## Mountains (west of I-77)

### Founders' Day Fair

Sept. 5, Brevard  
(828) 884-2347  
[www.transylvaniaheritage.org](http://www.transylvaniaheritage.org)

### Family Discovery Program

Sept. 5–6, Chimney Rock  
(828) 243-2019  
[chimneyrockpark.com](http://chimneyrockpark.com)

### Roy Book Binder

Summer concert  
Sept. 7, Blowing Rock  
(828) 295-9099  
[blowingrockmuseum.org](http://blowingrockmuseum.org)

### Music In The Vineyard

Sept. 7, Ronda  
(336) 526-1078  
[raffaldini.com](http://raffaldini.com)

### Wild Mushroom Walks

Sept. 11 & 25, Chimney Rock  
(828) 243-2019  
[chimneyrockpark.com](http://chimneyrockpark.com)

### Sculpture Celebration

Sept. 12, Lenoir  
(828) 754-2486  
[caldwellarts.com](http://caldwellarts.com)

### Grandparents Day Weekend

Sept. 13–14, Chimney Rock  
(828) 243-2019  
[chimneyrockpark.com](http://chimneyrockpark.com)

### Reflections On Romantic Spirits

Art historian Martha Severens  
Sept. 17, Blowing Rock  
(828) 295-9099  
[blowingrockmuseum.org](http://blowingrockmuseum.org)

### Flock To The Rock

Sept. 19, Chimney Rock  
(828) 243-2019  
[chimneyrockpark.com](http://chimneyrockpark.com)

### Festa Italiana

Sept. 19, Ronda  
(336) 526-1078  
[raffaldini.com](http://raffaldini.com)

### Grape Stomp Harvest Bash

Sept. 19, Hendersonville  
(828) 685-2402  
[burntshirtvineyards.com](http://burntshirtvineyards.com)

### Arts & Crafts Market

Includes cooking demos  
Sept. 19, Dillsboro  
(828) 506-8331  
[visitdillsboro.org](http://visitdillsboro.org)

### Youth Arts Festival

Demos, music, recycled bugs  
Sept. 19, Dillsboro  
(828) 631-0271  
[jcgep.org](http://jcgep.org)

### Skinny Santa Arts & Craft Sale

Holiday gifts on a budget  
Sept. 19, Morganton  
(828) 443-5931  
[meetingplacemission.org](http://meetingplacemission.org)

### Overmountain Victory Celebration

Sept. 19, Spruce Pine  
(828) 765-1228  
[facebook.com/OvermountainVictoryCelebration](http://facebook.com/OvermountainVictoryCelebration)

### Mountain Heritage Day

Music, arts, clogging  
Sept. 26, Cullowhee  
(828) 227-7129  
[mountainheritageday.com](http://mountainheritageday.com)

### Celebration Of Arts

Sept. 26, Hiddenite  
(828) 632-6966  
[hiddenitearts.org](http://hiddenitearts.org)

### Old Timey Fall Festival

Craft wares, demos  
Sept. 26, Burnsville  
(704) 756-3321  
[oldtimeyfallfestival.com](http://oldtimeyfallfestival.com)

### Taste Of Carolina Foothills

Wine, artisanal food  
Sept. 27, Tryon  
(828) 817-1079  
[ourcarolinafoothills.com](http://ourcarolinafoothills.com)

## ONGOING

### Pigments Of Your Imagination

Artwork by Cathy Taylor  
Through September 30, Lenoir  
(828) 754-2486  
[caldwellarts.com](http://caldwellarts.com)

### Art Walk

First Friday through Oct. 2, Murphy  
(828) 644-0043  
[valleyriverarts.com](http://valleyriverarts.com)

### Carson House Guided Tours

Wednesday–Saturdays  
through Nov., Marion  
(828) 724-4948  
[historiccarsonhouse.com](http://historiccarsonhouse.com)

### Bluegrass Music Jam

Thursdays through Oct. 29, Marion  
(828) 652-2215  
[mcdowellinc.org](http://mcdowellinc.org)

### Groovin' On The Green

Through Sept. 4, Cashiers  
(828) 743-8428  
[visitcashiersvalley.com](http://visitcashiersvalley.com)

### On The Same Page Literary Festival

Sept. 15–19, West Jefferson  
(336) 846-2787  
[onthesamepagefestival.org](http://onthesamepagefestival.org)

### Looking at Appalachia

Blue Ridge Business  
Development Center exhibit  
Sept. 19 through Oct. 31, Sparta  
(336) 372-1525  
[lookingatappalachia.org](http://lookingatappalachia.org)



### Listing Deadlines:

For Nov.: Sept. 25  
For Dec.: Oct. 25

### Submit Listings Online:

Visit [carolinacountry.com](http://carolinacountry.com) and click "Carolina Adventures" to add your event to the magazine and/or our website. Or e-mail [events@carolinacountry.com](mailto:events@carolinacountry.com).



**Open Art Competition**

Through Sept. 24, Valdese  
(828) 879-2129  
visitvaldese.com

**Mountains To Coast Ride**

Cyclists bike to Oak Island  
Sept. 26 through Oct. 3, Waynesville  
(828) 452-0152  
visitncsmokies.com

**Take A Child Outside**

Sept. 24–30, Chimney Rock  
(828) 243-2019  
chimneyrockpark.com

**Cruise In**

Second Sat. through Sept., Dobson  
(336) 648-2309

**Docent Tours**

Through Oct. 17, Blowing Rock  
(828) 295-9099  
blowingrockmuseum.org

**Hickory Ridge Living History Museum**

Through Oct. 11, Boone  
(828) 264-2120  
hickoryridgemuseum.com

**Fine Art & Heritage Craft Workshops**

Through Nov. 6, West Jefferson  
(336) 846-3827  
florenceartschool.org

**Friday Night Jam Session**

Through Nov. 20, Lake Toxaway  
(828) 966-4060  
toxawaycc.com

**Mountain Gateway Music Jam**

Most Sundays through Dec. 20  
Old Fort  
(828) 668-4626  
mountaingatewaymuseum.org

**Doodlebug Club**

Art program for preschool ages  
Through Dec. 31, Blowing Rock  
(828) 295-9099  
blowingrockmuseum.org

**Piedmont** (between I-77 & I-95)**Sounds Of The French Quarter**

Sept. 3, Fayetteville  
(910) 485-0221  
fayettevillesymphony.org

**Oldies, Rock & Blues Music**

Sept. 4, Hope Mills  
(910) 426-4109  
townofhopemills.com

**Littleton/Lake Gaston Festival**

BBQ, live beach music  
Sept. 4–5, Littleton  
(252) 676-1428  
littletonlionsclubnc.com

**Creole Stomp Band**

Sept. 5, Yadkinville  
(336) 679-2941  
yadkinarts.org

**Librari-Con**

Anime mini-convention  
Sept. 5, Fayetteville  
(910) 483-7727  
cumberland.lib.nc.us

**Revolutionary War Reenactment**

Sept. 5–6, Huntersville  
(704) 875-2312  
lattaplantation.org

**Treasures Of The Earth**

Gem, mineral and jewelry show  
Sept. 4–7, Raleigh fairgrounds  
(804) 642-2011  
treasuresoftheearth.com

**Poetry Night**

Sept. 6, Fayetteville  
(910) 864-0555  
thecooffeesceneinc.com

**Motown Sound**

Sept. 10, Fayetteville  
(910) 485-0221  
fayettevillesymphony.org

**Lafayette Birthday Celebration**

Sept. 11–12, Fayetteville  
(910) 223-9339  
lafayettesociety.org

**Greek Festival**

Sept. 11–13, Raleigh  
(919) 414-5859  
greekfestivalraleigh.com

**National Folk Festival**

Sept. 11–13, Greensboro  
(336) 373-7523  
nationalfolkfestival.com

**Cowboy Up**

Sept. 11–13, Lumberton  
(919) 854-1990  
nchorsecouncil.com

**Pickin' By The Lake**

Sept. 12, Roxboro  
(336) 599-1181  
piedmontcc.edu/pickin

**NC Hot Sauce Contest**

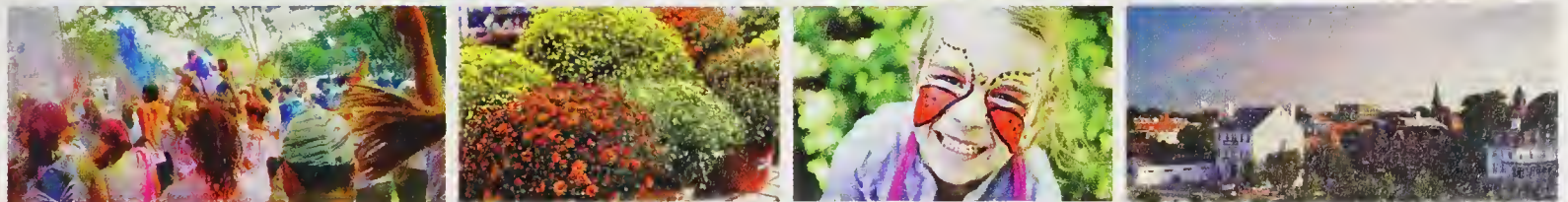
Sept. 12, Oxford  
(919) 693-1217  
nchotsaucecontest.com

**Street Festival**

Sept. 12, Denton  
(336) 259-4231  
townofdenton.com

**The Tar River Festival**

Sept. 12, Louisburg  
(919) 496-3056  
franklin-chamber.org

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**Homecoming Festival**  
Sept. 12, Mayodan  
(336) 548-2241  
townofmayodan.com

**Farm Fest**  
Sept. 12, Selma  
(919) 750-5464  
thefarmnc.com

**Renaissance Faire**  
Sept. 12–13, Fayetteville  
(910) 396-9126  
fortbraggmwr.com

**Breathing Life Into A Dying Art**  
Bookbinding  
Sept. 17, Raleigh  
(919) 833-3431  
joellane.org

**Dailey & Vincent Land Fest**  
Camping, food, music  
Sept. 17–19, Denton  
(336) 859-2755  
farmpark.com

**Oldies, Rock & Blues Music**  
Sept. 18, Hope Mills  
(910) 426-4109  
townofhopemills.com

**Hee Haw**  
Performed by Little Theatre  
Sept. 18–19, Roxboro  
(336) 583-4230  
personcounty.net

**Music Festival**  
Sept. 19, Creedmoor  
(919) 764-1003  
cityofcreedmoor.org



*Sawmills, Caldwell County, North Carolina. Mike Baker. August 17, 2014.*



*Kelsey Green herding sheep to the barn, Paw Paw, Madison County, North Carolina. Rob Amberg. June 2, 2014.*



*Crossville Raceway, Cumberland County, Tennessee. Tamara Reynolds. May 31, 2014.*

## LOOKING AT APPALACHIA

An ambitious photography exhibition intending to dispel stereotypical images of Appalachia will be on display at the Blue Ridge Business Development Center in Sparta, Alleghany County, from Sept. 19 to Oct. 26.

"Looking at Appalachia" was the brainchild of photographer, Raleigh resident and U.S. Army veteran Roger May. Last year he posted a call on Instagram for professional and amateur photographers to submit pictures that reveal life in the 13-state mountain region known as Appalachia, from western New York to Mississippi. To mark the 50th anniversary of the so-called "War on Poverty," May hopes to turn around the images of the 1960s that showed impoverished, low-down, backwoods life in the Appalachian Mountains.

The juried images amount to about 300 for its website and 75 for the exhibition. They range from scenics to portraits. After Sparta, the show goes to Michigan, Virginia and West Virginia. Eventually the pictures will be archived at Duke University.

The show in Sparta is supported by a partnership that includes Alleghany Center of Wilkes Community College, Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce, Grassroots Arts Project of the Arts Guild of Alleghany County, Alleghany County Library, and the Blue Ridge Business Development Center.

For more information and to see more pictures: [lookingatappalachia.org](http://lookingatappalachia.org)  
For information about the show in Alleghany County: (336) 372-1525



**Operation Ceasefire Movie Night**  
Sept. 19, Fayetteville  
(910) 433-1017  
ceasefire.ci.fayetteville.nc.us

**Sweet Potato Festival**  
Music, crafts, food  
Sept. 19, Dobson  
(336) 374-5317  
rockfordgeneralstore.com

**Concealed Carry Fashion Show**  
Sept. 19, Fayetteville  
(910) 723-3899  
fayettevillepr.com

**Movie Night Under The Stars**  
Sept. 19, Fayetteville  
(910) 396-5979  
fortbraggmwr.com

**Bright Leaf Hoedown**  
Sept. 19, Yanceyville  
(336) 694-6106  
caswellchamber.com

**Adult Book Bunch**  
Sept. 24, Roxboro  
(336) 597-7881  
www.personcounty.net

**A Night On Broadway**  
Sept. 24, Fayetteville  
(910) 485-0221  
fayettevillesymphony.org

**Cirque Montage**  
Sept. 25, Pembroke  
(910) 521-6361  
uncp.edu/gpac

**International Folk Festival**  
Sept. 25-27, Fayetteville  
(910) 323-1776  
theartscouncil.com

**Automobile Racers Reunion**  
Historic Oconeechee/  
Orange Speedway  
Sept. 26, Hillsborough  
(919) 563-9615  
historicspeedwaygroup.org

**Bahama Day Festival**  
Sept. 26, Bahama  
(919) 477-4990  
bahama-ruritan.com

**Fall Festival**  
Sept. 26, Youngsville  
Crafts, food truck rodeo  
(919) 556-4026  
youngsvillefallfestival.com

**Dirty Dogs Extravaganza**  
Competitions, demos  
Sept. 26-27, Wake Forest  
(919) 453-0765  
dirtydogsspa.com

**Founders Day**  
Sept. 26-27, Gold Hill  
(704) 267-9439  
historicgoldhill.com

**Ground Zero Wrestling**  
Sept. 27, Fayetteville  
(910) 438-4100  
crowncomplexnc.com

#### ONGOING

**City Market At The Museum**  
Craft vendors  
Saturdays through Sept. 26,  
Fayetteville  
(910) 443-1457  
facebook.com/  
CityMarketAtTheMuseum

**Maness Pottery & Music Barn**  
Dinner, music, fellowship  
Tuesday nights, Midway  
(910) 948-4897  
facebook.com/clydemaness

**Art After Hours**  
Second Fridays, Wake Forest  
(919) 570-0765  
sunflowerstudiowf.com

**Betty Lynn (Thelma Lou)**  
Appearance at Andy Griffith Museum  
Third Fridays, Mount Airy  
(336) 786-7998  
andygriffithmuseum.com

**Fourth Friday**  
Arts, shopping  
Fayetteville  
(910) 483-5311  
theartscouncil.org

**Stagville: Black & White Exhibit**  
Through Sept. 13, Fayetteville  
(910) 486-1330  
visitfayettevillenc.com

**Present Tense**  
Paintings, blown glass  
Through Sept. 20, Hillsborough  
(919) 732-5001  
hillsboroughgallery.com

**Bluegrass Pickin' Shed**  
Thursday nights  
Through Nov. 12, Laurel Hill  
(910) 462-3636

**Birth Of Funk Exhibit**  
James Brown, N.C. musicians  
Through Feb. 28, 2016, Raleigh  
(919) 807-7900  
ncmuseumofhistory.org

**Cumberland County Fair**  
Sept. 11-Sept. 20, Fayetteville  
(910) 438-4100  
cumberlandcountyfair.org

**Man Of La Mancha - Musical**  
Sept. 17 through Oct. 11, Fayetteville  
(910) 323-4234  
cftr.org



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# Remembering the early years of NASCAR



*Legendary car builder, engineer and team owner Bud Moore, shown here in the mid-1960s with a Mercury Comet that Darel Dieringer drove at Darlington Speedway, will be honored on Saturday, Sept. 26 at the annual Occoneechee/Orange Speedway near Hillsborough. (Photo courtesy of Perry Allen Wood)*

If you appreciate NASCAR and stock car racing in general, the place to be this month is the historic Occoneechee/Orange Speedway near Hillsborough. The 9th annual Celebration of the Automobile Racers Reunion and Car Show takes place on Saturday, Sept. 26, attracting

some 8,000 people or more to honor stock car racing legends and the cars they drove.

The guest of honor this year will be Walter "Bud" Moore, a NASCAR Hall of Famer, race team owner for 51 years with three NASCAR championships, and a decorated World War

II hero. Among other VIPs expected are Bud's sons Greg and Daryl, plus NASCAR Hall of Famer Bobby Allison, Cliff Champion, former crew chief for Bill Champion and Ricky Rudd, and many others.

The "Cruise-in With a Twist" kicks things off the Friday night before at the Big Barn Convention Center, 388 Ja Max Drive in Hillsborough. Car registration opens the next morning at 7 a.m. Admission and parking are free. The event includes a 1 p.m. 21-gun salute to Bud Moore, then legendary drivers making parade laps around the historic dirt track, and a classic car show.

The Historic Speedway Group that puts on the event is a nonprofit organization focused on preserving the last remaining track from NASCAR's inaugural 1948 season and the history that surrounds it. The Occoneechee/Orange Speedway is located at 320 Elizabeth Brady Rd., Hillsborough, N.C. 27278.

## For more information

(919) 563-9615  
[historicspeedwaygroup.org](http://historicspeedwaygroup.org)

**Young Frankenstein - Comedy**  
 Sept. 18 through Oct. 4, Fayetteville  
 (910) 678-7186  
[gilberttheater.com](http://gilberttheater.com)

**In The Mind's Eye**  
 Glass, photography, paintings  
 Sept. 21 through Oct. 25, Hillsborough  
 (919) 732-5001  
[hillsboroughgallery.com](http://hillsboroughgallery.com)

**Mayberry Days**  
 Checkers, music, special guests  
 Sept. 23-27, Mount Airy  
 (336) 786-7998  
[mayberrydays.com](http://mayberrydays.com)

## Coast (east of I-95)

**Hands-On Canning Workshop**  
 Sept. 1, Southport  
 (910) 754-2300  
[brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu](http://brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu)

**Zoso—The Led Zeppelin Experience**  
 Sept. 5, Manteo  
 (252) 475-1500  
[roanokeisland.com](http://roanokeisland.com)

**Collard Festival**  
 Sept. 10-13, Ayden  
 (252) 746-7080  
[aydencollardfestival.com](http://aydencollardfestival.com)

**Monster Truck Jam**  
 Sept. 11-12, Newport  
 (252) 223-4019  
[newportfleamall.com](http://newportfleamall.com)

**Git' Down Downtown Concert**  
 Sept. 12, Washington  
 (252) 623-7065  
[whda.org](http://whda.org)

**Hollerin' Heritage Festival**  
 Sept. 12, Spivey's Corner  
 (919) 820-1909  
[nationalhollerincontest.com](http://nationalhollerincontest.com)

**Classic Car Show**  
 Sept. 12, Scotland Neck  
 (252) 826-3152  
[townofscotlandneck.com](http://townofscotlandneck.com)

**Harvest Festival**  
 Sept. 19, Bethel  
 (252) 717-1646  
[bethelnc.org](http://bethelnc.org)

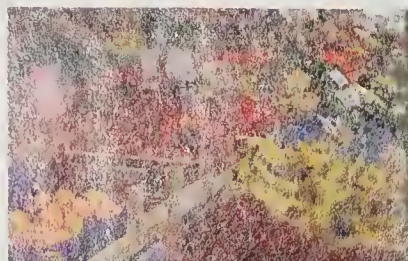
**Annie Moses Band**  
 Sept. 19, Rocky Mount  
 (252) 985-5197  
[ncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter](http://ncwc.edu/arts/dunncenter)

**Shell Show**  
 Sept. 19-20, Wilmington  
 (910) 798-4370  
[ncshellclub.com](http://ncshellclub.com)

**North Carolina Rice Festival**  
 Contests, live music  
 Sept. 19-20, Belville  
 (910) 795-0292  
[ncricefestival.com](http://ncricefestival.com)

**American Legion Agricultural Fair**  
 Sept. 22-27, Greenville  
 (252) 758-6916  
[pittfair.org](http://pittfair.org)

**Wooden Boat Show**  
 Sept. 26, Southport  
 (910) 457-7927  
[southportwoodenboatshow.com](http://southportwoodenboatshow.com)



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**Brunswick County  
Intercultural Festival**  
Sept. 26, Supply  
(703) 855-8555  
bcifestival.org

**Family Pirate Day**  
Sept. 26, Cape Carteret  
(252) 393-6500  
carteret.cpclub.org/western

#### ONGOING

**Art Walk**  
First Fridays, Elizabeth City  
(252) 335-5330  
ecncart.com

**Art Walk**  
First Friday, Greenville  
(252) 561-8400  
uptowngreenville.com

**Classic Car Cruise In**  
First Saturdays through Nov. 7  
Tabor City  
(910) 653-4141  
taborcitync.org

**Ghosts Walking Tour**  
Days vary through Oct. 31, New Bern  
(252) 571-4766  
ghostsofnewbern.com

**Freeboot Friday**  
Sept. 4 & 25, Oct. 16, Nov. 6  
Greenville  
(252) 561-8400  
uptowngreenville.com

**Summer Concerts**  
Friday through Sept. 5, Ocean Isle  
(252) 923-3971

**North Carolina In The Great War**  
Through Sept. 13, New Bern  
(252) 639-3511  
tryonpalace.org

**Historic District Guided Tours**  
Second Saturdays  
Through October, Murfreesboro  
(252) 398-5922

**Hubb's Farm Fall Festival**  
Sept. 19–Nov. 14, Clinton  
(910) 564-6709  
hubbscornmaze.com

**Follow Me To The Corn & Zombie Fright Nights**  
Sept. 25–Oct. 31, Chocowinity  
(252) 945-6153  
raisedinabarnfarm.com

**Weddings In The  
Albemarle, 1831-2015**  
Exhibit until December 2017  
(252) 335-1453  
Museumofthealbemarle.com

#### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

It is possible for dates to change or events to be canceled after Carolina Country goes to press. We encourage you to check for updates through the contact information listed with events.

# Fall in with good company and celebrate the season.

The arrival of fall brings celebrations of harvest time and football season in Pitt County. Now thirty years strong, the **Ayden Collard Festival**, September 10-13, offers pageantry and parade in honor of the greens. For a day of old time family fun and entertainment, visit the **Bethel Harvest Festival**, September 19. Every home game weekend for the ECU Pirates kicks off with **Freeboot Friday** in Uptown Greenville, September 4 & 25, October 16, and November 6, 2015.

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# Don't fall victim to energy scams

**A**cross the U.S., cases of fraud and identity theft are at all-time highs. In 2014 alone, there were over 40,000 cases of phone- or utilities-related fraud, or 118 cases every day. Energy scams are becoming more sophisticated and prevalent, and it's possible for anyone to be tricked by them. The best way to stay safe is to be aware of some of the common ploys, be suspicious of "free energy" claims and to contact your electric cooperative if anything seems amiss.

## Phone scams

In the summer of 2012, thousands of consumers from coast to coast, including members at electric cooperatives, fell prey to a telephone scam promising help with energy bills. The criminals claimed that President Obama had authorized a special federal program to pay electric bills. Then, they asked each victim to provide personal information, such as a bank routing number or a Social Security number to receive the payment. Although this particular scam has run its course, scammers are always coming up with new stories to steal consumers' personal information.

## E-mail

Many people don't realize how sophisticated scam e-mail has become. Many of these e-mail messages will mimic e-mail from legitimate sources and contain personal information such as your name, address, bank name and more. Unfortunately this information is not difficult to find and can make otherwise sensible people send back sensitive information or click a link in the message. If you open an e-mail message that you suspect is a scam or asks for private information, you can always call your utility to confirm its authenticity. Just don't click the link first.

## Door-to-door

Even in the digital age, there are scams being perpetuated face-to-face. Typically these scams target the elderly




or people who may not speak English well, who may be easier to intimidate. Claiming to be from the utility (or associated in some way), they will tell you that something is wrong (bill past due, equipment missing or broken) and that you need to pay them money immediately or be disconnected. Electric cooperatives do not demand payment like this in the field and do not go to a member's house unless there is a scheduled appointment. Again, if you want to check if the person at your door is a utility employee, call your electric cooperative.

## Product scams

We've all been taught that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. This is almost always the case with "miracle" devices that claim to reduce energy use without providing a sensible explanation for how they work. In May 2008, the Texas Office of Attorney General took legal action against a firm offering what it called the Xpower Energy Saver or Mega Power Saver — a \$300 small gray box that plugged into an electrical outlet at your home and promised to cut electric bills by 10 percent. Testing by the University of Texas in Austin revealed these devices couldn't deliver their promised savings. In addition, the lab revealed that the products

are, in reality, ordinary capacitors. Capacitors are regularly used by electricians, and they can be purchased for less than \$20. While this gadget is now off the market, you can be sure that similar products will spring up to take its place.

Avoid energy scams with these tips:

- Always guard your personal accounting and banking information, and never share this information with family, friends or strangers.
- Remember: Your electric cooperative will NEVER call and ask for sensitive personal information over the phone.
- Only use methods authorized by your electric cooperative to pay your bills.
- Cooperative employees visit a home only in response to a service request. If a service call has not been scheduled or requested, do not allow the person to enter your house.
- When an employee does respond to a service call, check identification and make sure the service truck is clearly marked with the proper logo. 

*Thomas Kirk is a technical research analyst specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy for the Cooperative Research Network (CRN), a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*



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# Taking charge of electronics

**Q:** I have a lot of electronics in my home. How do I make sure I'm using as little energy as possible with so many devices plugged in around the house?

**A:** There is an overwhelming abundance of electronics available these days, and research shows that many of us have more than 24 electronic devices plugged in at any given time. All of these gadgets account for about 12 percent of a home's total energy use, which can be more electricity consumption than one Energy Star refrigerator.

There are three key actions to cut down on electricity use from home electronics: turn items off, use Energy Star products, and minimize the number of electronics in your home.

## Turn it off

Just like turning off a light when you leave a room, make it a habit to turn off the television, computer or power strips. The average U.S. household has three or more televisions and many of us are guilty of leaving a television on for background noise or for Fluffy the cat. Turning off the television when it is not being watched may save \$60 to \$120 per year!

Likewise, turning off a computer instead of using a screen saver may save \$40 to \$120 per year. Make it easy by setting your computer to enter a low-power sleep mode when the computer is inactive. See [energystar.gov/sleepinstructions](http://energystar.gov/sleepinstructions) for more information. Be aware that many popular computer games will not allow the computer to go to sleep—even if the game is paused.

If you walk around your home in the dark, you'll notice little lights shining on your television, coffee maker and other electronics. These lights indicate that electricity is being used while electronics are in standby mode. Most electronics, including battery chargers, draw between one and 14 watts in standby mode. One watt for one year costs



around \$1, which doesn't seem like a lot until you consider the 20-plus electronic devices also drawing one watt or more. Flipping the "off" switch on a power strip can make cutting power to these electronics a breeze. Make it a habit so you don't miss this energy savings.

## Choose Energy Star

Energy Star-certified electronics use drastically less energy than standard models when turned on and in standby mode.

Compared to standard models, Energy Star-certified products offer the following savings:

Televisions use at least 40 percent less electricity. With households buying bigger, brighter and more televisions than ever before, buying Energy Star products is a huge opportunity to save.


Computers use 30 percent to 65 percent less energy, depending on usage and settings.

Set-top boxes, such as DVRs, are on average 35 percent more efficient. Standard DVRs cost nearly \$50 per year to operate in standby mode. Contact your cable or satellite service provider about providing you with an Energy Star-certified set-top box.

Audio/video equipment, such as Blu-Ray players, are up to 50 percent more efficient.

## Minimize

Downsizing the number of electronics in your home can be a terrific tactic for reducing electricity consumption. For example, consider having only one television or entertainment system in your home. The amount of money that you save on electricity may grant you enough savings for a bigger or better family television. With a healthy attitude, making dramatic changes can be an exciting adventure.

Taking charge of electronics' energy consumption may show measurable savings if you habitually turn off electronics, choose Energy Star products and eliminate electronics. So much of what we can do to save electricity and reduce our consumption of natural resources is good for our wallets and good for our minds. 

*Hannah McKenzie is a residential building science consultant for Advanced Energy in Raleigh.*

For more details about Energy Star electronics, visit [energystar.gov/products](http://energystar.gov/products)



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## Banana Pudding Pie

### Crust:

- 2 cups crushed vanilla wafer cookies
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon kosher salt

### Filling:

- 3 medium bananas, thinly sliced
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon kosher salt
- $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups whole milk
- 4 large egg yolks
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, cubed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

For crust: In a medium bowl, stir together crushed cookies, butter and salt. Using the bottom of a measuring cup, press mixture into bottom and up sides of a 9-inch pie plate.

Bake until light golden brown, approximately 10 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack, let cool.

For filling: Place sliced bananas in bottom of cooled crust. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, combine brown sugar, cornstarch and salt; whisk in milk and egg yolks until combined. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until thickened, approximately 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in butter and vanilla.

Spoon filling over banana in crust. Let cool 10 minutes. Place a piece of plastic wrap directly on surface of filling. Refrigerate until firm, approximately 3 hours.

Spread with whipped topping; garnish with whole cookies around edges and crumbs on top, if desired.

*Yield: 1 (9-inch) pie*



## Slow Cooker Cola Barbecue Pork

- 1 cup cola, such as Coca-Cola or Pepsi
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons ground red pepper
- 1 (5 $\frac{1}{2}$  pound) bone-in Boston butt
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- Barbecue sauce, to serve

In a medium bowl, stir together cola and ketchup; pour into a 6-quart slow cooker.

In a medium bowl, stir together salt, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and red pepper. Rub pork with oil. Rub spice mixture on pork, coating all sides. Place in slow cooker.

Cover and cook on low 8 hours. Remove pork from slow cooker, reserving 1 cup cooking liquid. Remove bones and fat; discard. Shred meat, and return to slow cooker. Pour reserved cooking liquid over shredded pork. Serve with barbecue sauce and your favorite side dishes.

*Yield: 8 to 10 servings*



## Quick Monkey Bread Rolls

- 1 can (12 ounces) refrigerated buttermilk biscuits, such as Pillsbury Grands Jr.
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup maple syrup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 10 muffin cups with nonstick baking spray with flour. Set aside.

Cut biscuits into thirds. Pour melted butter into a medium bowl. In another medium bowl, stir together sugars and cinnamon. Dip biscuit pieces into butter, then dredge in sugar mixture. Place 3 biscuits pieces into each muffin cup.

Bake until puffed and golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes. Run a knife around edge of cups; remove rolls. Drizzle with maple syrup.

*Yield: 10 rolls*

## From Your Kitchen

### Ramen Coleslaw

- 1 package coleslaw
- 1 bundle green onions, chopped
- 2 packages chicken ramen noodles
- 1 cup dry roasted sunflower seeds
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup white vinegar
- 2 packages ramen seasoning (comes with the noodles)

Break up noodles, mix with coleslaw, sunflower seeds and onion, set aside. Mix together oil, sugar, white vinegar and ramen seasonings packets. Refrigerate dressing for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour. Pour over coleslaw and chill.

*This recipe comes from  
Joy Powell of Wake Forest,  
a member of Wake EMC*

### Send Us Your Recipes

Contributors whose recipes are published will receive \$25. We retain reprint rights for all submissions. Recipes submitted are not necessarily entirely original. Include your name, address, phone number (for questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Mail to: Carolina Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611 or E-mail to: [Jenny.Lloyd@carolinacountry.com](mailto:Jenny.Lloyd@carolinacountry.com).

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**And there's more!** The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. The high and low heat settings along with the dozens of massage settings, can provide a soothing relaxation you might get at a spa – just imagine getting all that in a lift chair! Shipping charge includes white glove delivery. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! Includes one year service warranty and your choice of fabrics and colors. If you're not 100% satisfied simply return the chair within 30 days for a refund of the product purchase price. – Call now!

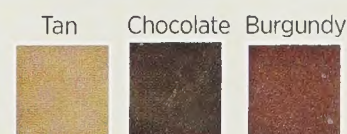
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Please mention code 100962 when ordering.

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DuraLux Leather**



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# dish

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**FREE**  
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WITH sling.

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• Record up to 8 Shows • Store up To 2,000 Hours.  
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Over 55 Family-Favorite  
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Over 190 Favorite Channels

A&E	Discovery Channel	Fuse	MTV2	185
ABC Family	Dish CD - 30+ Music Channels	FX	NBA League Pass	TLC
Cartoon Network - E/W	Disney Channel E/W	HGTV	NHL Center Ice	TNT
CMT	E! Entertainment Channel	History	Pivot	Travel Channel
CNBC	ESPN	JON	Reelz Channel	USA
CNN	ESPN2	Lifetime	Sirius XM - 70+ Music Channels	VH1
Comedy Central	ESPNEWS	msnbc	Spike TV	VeTV
C-SPAN 2	ESPNU	MTV	Syfy	Plus Many More

**\$29.99**  
mo  
for 12 months

**RedZone**  
from NFL Network  
plus over 35 sports channels  
in the Multi-Sport Pack  
**INCLUDED**  
through 1/4/16  
Available with packages starting  
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### America's Top 120 Plus

Includes all of America's Top 120  
channels plus channels below.

Big Ten Network FX	Fox Sports 2 PAC-12 Network	Longhorn Network SEC Network	Plus Your Favorite Regional Sports Networks
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**\$34.99**  
mo  
for 12 months

### America's Top 200

Over 240 Favorite Channels

Includes all of America's Top 120  
channels plus channels below.

Al Jazeera America	Disney XD	Investigation Discovery	NHL Network	truTV
AMC	Esquire Network	Lifetime Movie Network	Nick Jr.	Turner Classic Movies
Animal Planet	FOX Business News	MLB Network	Ovation	UniMas
Baby First TV	FOX Sports 1	National Geographic Channel	OWN Oprah Winfrey Network	Univision Este
BET	Galavision	NBA League Pass	Oxygen	UP
Bravo	Golf Channel	NBCSN	Sundance TV	WGN America
Disney Junior	GSN	NFL Network	TeenNick	Plus Many More

**\$39.99**  
mo  
for 12 months

### America's Top 250

Over 290 Favorite Channels

Includes all of America's Top 200  
channels plus channels below.

American Heroes Channel	Destination America	FYI	mun2	Tennis Channel
beIN SPORTS - 2 Channels	Dish Music 18+ Music Channels	H2	Nat GEO WILD	TheBlaze
Boomerang	Encore - 7 channels	Movie Channel - W	Nicktoons Network	VH1 Classic
Chiller	FX Movie Channel	Movie Channel Xtra	Rural TV	Z Living
Cooking Channel	Fusion	MoviePlex	Sportsman Channel	Plus Many More

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for 12 months

All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification. Monthly fees apply based on number of rooms. Promotional Discounts and Offers Not Available with FLEXTV

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No TV Service  
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Download  
Speed!  
Fast!  
Faster!  
Fastest!

up to  
**3**  
Mbps  
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up to  
**6**  
Mbps  
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or

up to  
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**FlexTV Offer Important Terms and Conditions:** Activation fee: FlexTV plan requires \$199 activation fee and receiver purchase. Customers subscribing to DishLATINO or qualifying international programming package receive instant \$150 credit on activation fee. Installation/Equipment Requirements: Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours. **Important Terms and Conditions: Promotional Offers:** Require activation of new qualifying DISH service. All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. After 12-month promotional period, then-current monthly price applies and is subject to change. **ETF:** If you cancel service during first 24 months, early termination fee of \$20 for each month remaining applies. **Additional Requirements: Hopper:** Monthly fees: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10. Recording hours vary; 2000 hours based on SD programming. **Premium Channels:** Premium offer value is \$135; after 3 months then-current monthly prices apply and are subject to change unless you call or go online to cancel prior to the end of 3 months. HBO®, Cinemax® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Leased equipment must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. **Gift-Card:** Courtesy of GoDish.com when you sign up for DISH with qualifying packages through 9/30/2015. Requires 24-month commitment and credit qualification. Redemption Certificate will be sent to customer within 7 days of qualifying DISH service activation. Redemption requires the following: customer's signature and shipping address, proof of DISH service, and payment for shipping and/or handling (payable with cashier's check or money order only). Allow 4-6 weeks from receipt of completed Redemption Certificate for delivery of gift. Neither MetaBank nor Visa is a sponsor, endorser or participant in this promotion. Monthly inactivity fee of \$2.95 after 12 consecutive months of inactivity. Lost/stolen replacement card fee of \$5.00. Cards issued by MetaBank™, Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Incorporated. See cardholder agreement, which will accompany your card, for more details. VISA® is a registered trademark of Visa International Service Association. **Multi-Sport Pack Offer:** Included through 1/04/16 with activation and installation of qualifying DISH service between 6/25/15 and 1/30/16. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 10/30/15.** All rights reserved. Internet: Speeds, prices and providers vary by customer address.